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Mahathir-Malay

NATION'S PROGRESS DUE TO EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

SHAH ALAM, May 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's development and progress so far is due to it having a government which is efficient in administering and managing the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said a country could not achieve success and development just by gaining independence, instead it depended upon the efficiency of the government.

"Do not think that progress and development will come just because we have achieved independence. It will not happen if it is not planned and implemented by an efficient government," he said in opening the RM25 million 10-storey Selangor Umno building in Jalan Persiaran Perbandaran here today.

Dr Mahathir expressed regret that of late certain quarters had been out to not only deny the contributions of Umno as the backbone of the government in bringing progress to the country and the Malays but also attempt to change the Malay culture of being thankful to one of hate and from being courteous to being rude and vulgar.

"It is very sad indeed that there are attempts by Malays themselves to deny the contributions made by Umno to the Malays and the attempt to make the Malays no longer grateful and thankful.

"This group is saying that it is enough to be grateful to God only and that the Malays did not owe Umno anything.

"It is more sad to see that when a government built mosque is completed, they come to denigrate those who helped build the mosque and run down the government and the party," said Dr Mahathir.

He said the group's actions were not led by Islamic principles but by the greed for power.

He said the group itself had enjoyed government benefits but it had not been grateful and thankful and even went to the extent of sowing hatred among children in kindergartens and students in schools and universities against the government and its leaders.

"They give pictures of certain people to be trampled on by children in kindergartens. In schools and universities, they instigate students so much so children of Umno members think the struggles of their parents in Umno are wrong.

"To these children, whatever done by their parents were not sufficient and some even questioned if the food served at home is halal or otherwise," he said.

Dr Mahathir said these were done by the group in the hope that when the children grew up they would reject Umno which had contributed much for them and to support another party which claimed to uphold Islamic principles.

"I am sad that those well versed in Islam have kept quiet, as though the usage of obscene and vulgar language by Muslims is condoned," he said.

He said Malays, particularly Umno members, need to counter such activities or else Malay children so influenced would not only reject Umno but also no longer respect their parents.

"Malay society will then be disunited and left in a lurch," he said.

He said all Umno members need to contain and to counter such activities.

Dr Mahathir later told a press conference that there had been many changes in the traits of the Malays.

"In the past, they did not write anything obscene but now they not only write them but were also told to use obscene words as though it is allowed in Islam," he said.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the proudly standing Umno buildings in each state and district should be seen by Umno members as a reflection of the party's successes.

-- BERNAMA

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