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PM: Doomsayers proven wrong

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The prophets of doom predicting the ruin of the country since before independence have been repeatedly proven wrong as the nation continues to progress and prosper, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a study of all predictions made would reveal that none had materialised.

He said the doomsayers predicted the Malays would rob the Chinese of property after independence and that Malaysia would not recover after the May 13 riots.

They had also believed the economy would suffer badly due to a weakened ringgit and that Malaysia would have to seek help from the International Monetary Fund.

"And all these have been proven to be off the mark. What has happened is actually the opposite," he said when opening the 46th MCA general assembly.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and BN component party leaders.

He said Malaysians were living in harmony and enjoyed progress and prosperity.

"Shops and shopping centres are always full, sales of houses and cars are increasing, housing and infrastructure development continues unabated, demand for workers continues to increase, factories have increased productivity and exports, domestic tourist spots are filled with local and foreign tourists and much more."

He said there were some like the foreign media who were unable to accept the fact that financial and other measures taken by the Government had put Malaysia's economic recovery well ahead of other nations similarly affected by the economic crisis.

The Prime Minister said despite such reservations, Malaysians who were loyal and clear-thinking had given their support to the BN Government and racial differences had never been a problem.

"For instance, even though foreigners criticised the New Economic Policy, the majority of Malaysian Chinese supported it. Today, we see the wisdom of the NEP. Although the country experienced an economic downturn, there has been no racial riots.

"In fact, the relationship between the races continues to be close and this has helped quicken the pace of economic recovery. Malaysian Chinese are rational and not greedy. They are willing to share with the other races. They helped make successful the NEP and other policies and approaches aimed at improving social conditions in Malaysia," he said.

Speaking to reporters later, he said countries which had subscribed to IMF packages were also recovering because they did not strictly follow IMF requirements.

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