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Mahathir-Unity

RESIST THREATS OF THE NEW CAPITALISTS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that close cooperation between workers, employers and the government is most vital to resist the attacks of the new capitalists who are attempting to dominate the world.

He said that the new capitalists claimed to be disciplining weak governments by determining who should rule besides dictating policies that should be followed, for their own benefit.

"We should together strive to defend our country...this is most essential. When faced with problems, we should join forces...the government, workers and employers, to defend our rights," he said in addressing the Workers' Day 1999 solidarity rally at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil, here.

It was attended by some 10,000 people representing the public and private sectors.

"Let us not disrupt our unity due to instigations as they do not have good intentions. It is not them who can protect us, we are the ones who should protect ourselves," he said.

Dr Mahathir thanked workers in the country for staunchly resisting the threats of the new capitalists by not resorting to actions like rioting as such an action would only destroy the nation.

He said that the new capitalists had attacked the country's currency and the stock market to thwart the government's efforts to develop the economy and the nation.

"We are at the threshold of the 21st century, the third millennium and we will be faced with various challenges.

"Challenges posed by the developed countries not wanting to see developing countries like ours achieve progress," he said.

He said that they do not like to see the country producing goods that could compete with theirs in the world market.

Previously, he said, the country imported goods from them but now Malaysia was producing goods for export to these countries.

They became uneasy as it meant that goods produced by the country could get better demand than their goods, he said.

As such, Dr Mahathir said, they would attempt to prevent Malaysia from producing goods that could compete with theirs.

"If we are not cautious, in the next century they will try to launch attacks against us again and they may succeed if we are incapable of managing our own affairs," he said.

The prime minister said that the government wanted to cooperate with workers and employers because the country could be developed and the incomes of the people could be increased only in this way.

The government could then collect more taxes from the employers and the revenue derived could be used for the benefit of the people especially the poor, he said.

"The cooperation of the three parties brings benefit to the government, employers and workers," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government hoped to see workers earning higher salaries as it would contribute to the country's development.

Workers with better pay would spend their money and by spending, others would gain, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia had initiated its own measures to deal

with the economic crisis caused by attacks by currency traders and short-term investors by imposing selective capital controls.

"For as long as communities in the world do not curb these modern capitalists, we will not lift the controls on our economy and our currency," he said.

He said that the government would ensure that they do not destroy the country's economy.

"The responsibility to the nation is ours...the workers, employers and the government.

"Let us defend our country's independence from the grip of these modern capitalists," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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