

07 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Discipline

UPHOLD DISCIPLINE, MALAYSIANS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysians must uphold discipline and observe the rule of law to ensure peace and progress in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In this way, they would never need to bow to any foreign power, he said when launching a gathering of some 5,000 Chinese calisthenics enthusiasts at the Merdeka Square, here.

The event was organised by the MCA with the cooperation of the Federation of Waitankung Associations, the Malaysian Federation of the 18th Form of Taiji Qi Gong Associations and the Malaysian Neitankung, to promote patriotism.

"If you notice, our nation is not easily dominated by others.

"There was an attempt to force us to bow to certain foreign agencies whose objective is to weaken us further, but it failed because the people are loyal and disciplined," he said.

The prime minister said that although some people had given in to indiscipline by staging protests and demonstrations, the majority of Malaysians chose to observe rules and regulations.

He said that rules and regulations were only effective if they were adhered to and respected.

Dr Mahathir congratulated the MCA which had conducted various activities to promote discipline and loyalty to the country.

He said that this was remarkable as the sense of discipline and loyalty was promoted not only among the MCA members but also the Chinese community and other races.

"We cannot deny that our economy became stronger due to the acumen of the Chinese in the fields of economy, trade and industry.

"Due to their capability, our economic and financial position has not been badly affected even though the ringgit has been devalued and our share market has declined. This was due to discipline and adherence of the law," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia was a multi-racial country but the people had been able to live in peace and harmony through tolerance of each other's culture and languages.

He said that the Chinese in the country had been able to practise their culture which had remained intact.

He was confident that today's event could help contribute towards nation-building.

Practising Chinese calisthenics like taiji, neitankung and waitankung could promote a sense of well-being and level-headedness.

"I wish you could practice it daily. It will contribute towards a stable nation that can become prosperous, and capable of protecting and defending its sovereignty against attacks by people who want to deprive us of our independence," he said.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his wife, Datin Ena Ling, Deputy MCA president Datuk Lim Ah Lek and several MCA minister and deputy ministers.

-- BERNAMA

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