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Mahathir-Y2K

Y2K PROBLEM WILL NOT BRING ABOUT A MAJOR DISASTER, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- With only three days to the new millennium, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia has taken steps to overcome the Year 2000 or Y2K problem.

"I believe that even if there is a problem, it will not be big," he said in an interview with Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya, near here, today.

The Y2K or "Millennium Bug" refers to the inability of some microchips to recognise dates beyond 1999 in their time-sensitive functions, possibly resulting in computer system errors or shutdowns.

Dr Mahathir said too much ado had been made over the Y2K problem.

"It will not result in a major disaster, especially when we have made preparations for it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government had ensured that the Y2K problem would not obstruct the running of computers.

"What we fear is that because of this Y2K, our computers will not run properly and all data kept in the computer may be lost or may not run as usual. Then our business will be disrupted.

"But action has been taken to overcome this Y2K problem," he said.

On the increase in prices of several essential items recently, especially during the festive season, Dr Mahathir said it was a normal thing.

"This is because when demand exceeds supply, prices usually rise," he said.

However, he said, the government always monitored the prices to ensure that they did not spiral.

"We have controlled items like sugar, flour and others but other things we do not control. We only monitor and try our best to ensure that the prices do not rise too drastically," Dr Mahathir said.

However, if consumers found certain items to be too expensive, they could buy other things.

"If they can afford it, they can still buy at high prices," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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