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Mahathir-Formula

A RACE NEEDS TO BE DISCIPLINED, BOLD AND COURAGEOUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- The best formula to ensure the success of this country is for the people to be disciplined, bold and courageous in facing challenges, the Prime Minister said tonight.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysians at all levels had the necessary qualities to determine the best formula to realise their wishes.

"The successful race is one which has high values in life. High values such as discipline and boldness of heart when facing challenges. The disciplined person will not break free from the frontline when attacked," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the Malaysian Formula Award Competition prize presentation ceremony and the launching of Yayasan Formula Malaysia here. Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali was also present.

He said when the economic slowdown hit the country, many fell victims but because the frontline did not collapse, victory was earned and the fallen were able to rise again and be rehabilitated.

"The financial crisis taught us a big lesson that our country can be attacked at anytime and hence the need for the people to remain united and place their trust in the government and support its efforts."

"The willingness of Malaysians to face pressure and hardship during the economic downturn frustrated the attacks of foreigners who hoped for chaos to occur and the collapse of the government," he said.

The Prime Minister said, "We have to build on our determination and on a good values to ensure that our Malaysian Formula will be a strong wall capable of defending us."

Dr Mahathir also hit out at the Asian Wall Street Journal for listing Malaysia as the "the least free country in the world".

"I wish to ask the AWSJ which is printed in Malaysia and yet it considered a country in this region which restricted its circulation from 3000 to 500 copies as the freest country in the world."

Malaysians should count their blessings because during the worst economic crisis the people were united and did not create any trouble or problems which could jeopardise national stability.

The financial crisis provided a lesson on how easy it was for the foreign powers to destroy a country through economic attacks such as by weakening the country's currency.

"There was no necessity for them to launch any military attacks to cripple their competitors' economy," he said.

Globalisation or the borderless world was a name given to their new strategy and "if we are not careful our borders will collapse and we will no longer be able to protect ourselves."

"Although initially, Malaysia was the only country that criticised globalisation as introduced by the developed world, Alhamdulillah today many other countries, NGOs and also thinkers from the developed world are also critical of it," he said.

The Malaysian Formula competition is one of the programmes drawn up to instil this awareness among the people. It was launched by Dr Mahathir on Sept 15 last year at the Dataran Komplek Kerajaan, Putrajaya.

It involved competition under various categories including essay and short story writing, song composition and designing websites.

The Malaysian Formula and the prizes for the various competitions were sponsored by Edaran Otomobil Nasional (EON), YTL, Southern bank, Sapura,

MRCB, Sunway Group, Tenaga Nasional, KUB Malaysia Berhad and others.

As a follow up to the Malaysian Formula campaign the Yayasan Formula Malaysia was set up and launched by the Prime Minister tonight.

Dr Mahathir presented cash prizes to winners of the various categories at primary school, secondary school and tertiary institutions and public levels.

-- BERNAMA

GM AO AAM