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Mahathir-Ezam

MAHATHIR ASKS THOSE TRYING TO DESTROY THE COUNTRY TO LEAVE MALAYSIA

BANGI, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it is better for those who try to destroy Malaysia with the help of outsiders to leave the country.

"It's better for them to get out, go elsewhere if they want to become foreign citizens to enjoy greater freedom.

"Go there, to places where they seek help and receive praises," he said when launching the publicity and public objection for Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) local programmes, here.

The Prime Minister said once there, these people would find that they were regarded as the dregs of society because of the colour of their skin.

Dr Mahathir said he felt ashamed that such people existed among the Malays and wanted the country and the people to be under foreign power.

"But Malaysians do not want to be colonised. We will build our country and no one can stop us," he said, in apparent reference to the recent admission by Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) Youth chief Ezam Mohamad Noor.

Ezam had purportedly admitted of going to the United States and Europe to garner support to impose economic pressure on Malaysia to release former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is serving prison sentence for corruption and sodomy.

Dr Mahathir again labelled those involved in attempts to run down the country, including inciting foreign countries to impose economic sanction on Malaysia as traitors.

"They are the traitors to our country...we achieved independence in 1957 and we want to continue to be independent," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that it was for this reason that the government had sought ways and means to ensure that the country would not depend on others in resolving the economic downturn three years ago.

He said fortunately, Malaysia was able to overcome the problem without depending or bowing to pressure from others.

"This shows that Malaysia is truly an independent country and has the right to chart its own course," he said.

This independence included determining for itself the form of development in the various states such as in Selangor which had the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) incorporating the Federal administrative capital of Putrajaya, Cyberjaya and the KL International Airport (KLIA).

The Prime Minister said many states wanted largescale development such as this but the Federal Government had to make a choice based on certain considerations.

Dr Mahathir said in view of this, the people of Selangor should be thankful as the MSC is located in their state, making it possible for the area and its surroundings to experience rapid development.

Apart from enabling the Selangor Government to earn revenue from it, the spiralling land price following the government's decision to implement the MSC, Putrajaya and KLIA had also produced millionaires and raised the living standards of the people as happened in Langkawi from its development.

"I hope they realise how big a development they are enjoying compared to the situation before," he said.

The programme would enable people to inspect and make suggestions in relation to the five proposed plans in the MSC -- Cyberjaya (Foreign Flagship), Dengkil (Cyber Village), Salak Tinggi (Airport City), Sungai Merab (Tele Suburb) and KLIA Fringe Local Programme.

Dr Mahathir said the process would enable the government to obtain feedback from the people on the projects which were related to their area

and the lives.

"If there are people who think that because of these development programmes, they will become worse off, we want to know why and so changes can be made so that they will not experience any loss," he said.

He said any objection should be constructive and reasonable and not with the aim of getting more out of the government.

At a news conference later, the Prime Minister said the MSC was a longterm development project that would give rise to a mega city with a population of 2.5 million in 15 years.

The MSC is a 750-square kilometre area south of Kuala Lumpur beginning from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) to KLIA, being developed as the foremost multimedia product industry growth centre.

The focus of the development of Cyberjaya Foreign Flagship covering 6,325 hectares was to provide housing areas to meet the residential needs arising from the development of Cyberjaya and Putrajaya.

Cyber Villge on 3,600 hectares would be the nucleus for small and medium scale industries managed by locals to support the operations of multinational companies in Cyberjaya.

Airport City on 2,888 hectares near Salak Tinggi would supur the development of KLIA.

The Sungai Merab Tele-Suburb covering 8,860 hectares is oriented towards smart schools and housing to support the development of Sungai Merah, Cyberjaya and Putrajaya.

The KLIA Fringe Development on 22,914 hectares envisaged the setting up of housing, industries, commercial and recreational business near KLIA to realise the development of the Airport City.

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