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Mapen-Mahathir

MAPEN II PROPOSES VISION DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR COMING DECADE

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- The 2nd National Economic Consultative Council (Mapen II) has proposed to the government that the National Development Policy 2001-2010 be replaced with Vision Development Policy (DPW) in line with the economic trend of the country and in the interest of all communities in the coming decade.

The proposal was contained in the final report of Mapen II, entitled "Vision Development Policy, 2110-2010", that Mapen II chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department, here today.

The proposal comprises nine cores and 12 strategies, covering among others aspect of enhancing the country's competitiveness, human resources development, restructuring of society, poverty eradication, science and technology, Islamic finance and banking as well as efforts to enhance national unity.

Dr Mahathir congratulated members of Mapen II for completing the report within a year and thanked them for assisting the government in formulating the country's national policy for the next 10 years.

It was yet another proof that different communities in the country had no problem, sitting down together to discuss national interest, he said.

He said it was not easy for people from different races to reach an agreement when discussing national issues, like in some countries, leading to rioting and civil war.

"Alhamdulillah in Malaysia, we can work together and talk like sensible people. Although we have our differences, we are able to find a solution, and a view of more or less the same," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the 788-page report would serve as guidelines to the government in planning future economic development of the country and the suggestions contained therein would be given due consideration.

"Trust me, whether the government accepts them all or some of the suggestions made, we will not let your efforts go to waste," he said.

The the people were proud with the progress made by the country since it gained independent 43 years ago, Dr Maharthir said while expressing confidence that the country would realise its Vision 2020.

Earlier in his briefing on DPW, Ahmad Sarji said the Mapen II studied 137 memoranda from various organisations and individuals.

He said, among the proposals was the formation of a National Council on Competitiveness and Nasional Innovation Centre in line with knowledge-based economy.

On education, he said Mapen II proposed a fund for bumiputeras to increase their number in private institutions of higher learning (IPTS).

Ahmad Sarji said Mapen II also proposed restructuring of society by recognising privatised government entities as corporate trust institutions.

He said these institutions would be responsible for moulding and strengthening the development of a bumiputera commerce and industry society through entrepreneur development, pioneer capital scheme, vendor development, franchise and small and medium scale industries.

On poverty erdication, he said Mapen II suggested that credit access with low interest be extended to the poor, provide low cost houses with low down payment and ensure that housing scheme in estates complied with minimum standard.

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