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`We Care' centre to serve all

Chok Suat Ling

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight launched the Umno Civil Action Bureau's service centre which will provide counselling to all Malaysians seeking its help.

Headed by Umno supreme council member Azalina Othman Said, the centre will also, among others, organise recreational activities like martial arts classes and aerobics.

The service centre which operates by the slogan "We Care", is located in Sungai Way.

It commences operations tomorrow at 9am.

The service centre will also strive to help workers and residents in the area equip themselves with mental and physical strength.

Also present at the launch were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech, said the centre is open to all Malaysians.

"The establishment of the service centre is a good move as it provides service to the rakyat which is the responsibility of a Government elected by the people.

"We chose democracy as our political system and when we do this, we give the people the opportunity to elect their leaders. In a democracy, political parties will have their own programmes to inform the public of the good they can bring the nation."

Unfortunately, he said, there were now some political parties which did not strive to inform the public of the benefits they could bring, but instead tried to cultivate hatred against the other party in the hope that the people would not support it.

"They cultivate hatred and make ludicrous promises like those who vote for them will go to heaven. They have also thrown all kinds of slanderous comments in my direction.

"They don't care whether it is a sin ...what is important is to cultivate hatred."

The Prime Minister threw a challenge to them: "If they want to fight us, show the people that they can develop the country their way. They do not have a service centre like this, they only know how to cultivate hatred by giving ceramahs in mosques and surau."

Hate, Dr Mahathir said, was a dangerous emotion as those who hate were no longer sane.

"When this happens, people are willing to carry out an arms heist and kill others. There was a report that someone had tried to stab singer Siti Nurhaliza ...hate drove the person to commit the action."

Dr Mahathir warned that hatred would end in violence.

"Countries which cultivate hatred for political purposes will lose control."

Addressing some 5,000 industrial workers from the Sungai Way Free Trade Zone later, Dr Mahathir reminded them of the importance of maintaining industrial peace in the country.

"If there are problems, there should be negotiations. This is the best way. If workers create disturbances, we will not be able to attract foreign investors to the country.

"If there are no investors, the next generation will not be able to

secure jobs."

Dr Mahathir said there were more jobs now than there were workers.

"We should be grateful. People from other countries come here to seek jobs," he said.

He said the Government had no intention of imposing high taxes on foreign investors. "We want them to continue coming here so that our people will have more jobs."

"The rich businessmen who have huge profits pay corporate tax which is used to pay the salaries of the army and the police."

Dr Mahathir said the country had developed from an agricultural country to an industrial one.

"People once could not believe that we were capable of going into the manufacturing sector, but now we can do almost anything."

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