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Mahathir-Environment

AESTHETIC ELEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT REFLECTS PRIDE OF A RACE, SAYS PM

PUTRAJAYA, March 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the aesthetic element in the conservation of the environment reflects the pride of a race.

He said that the failure of a race in the conservation and beautification of the environment would show not only their lack of sophistication but also poor potential for progress.

"Worse still is that these people who have low aesthetic standards do not have any inhibitions over their lack of appreciativeness and unable to assess the difference between them and those with a high level of sophistication," he said when launching the "National Landscape Day" at Dataran Putra here.

Dr Mahathir said that a race with pride would take interest in what they display to the world and failure or shortcomings in whatever aspects would definitely cause them embarrassment.

He said that the development of the nation had reached a level whereby initiatives had to be made to ensure that the conservation and beautification of the environment was in line with the progress achieved.

The prime minister said that since independence, the people in the country had been more aware of the cleanliness and beautification of the environment.

He said that in the beautification of individual houses, those without compounds could still inject aesthetic value by having potted plants displayed outside the windows of such houses.

"Malaysian architects do not know yet how to prepare window plant boxes for multi-storey houses...instead engineers who design multi-tier highways are more efficient in providing plant boxes on the fringes of the outer lanes.

"I believe Malaysian architects will learn how residents on the higher floors of multi-storey houses can beautify such buildings with potted flowering plants," he said.

This year's "National Landscape Day" is themed "Love Our Landscapes" aimed at promoting appreciation of beautiful landscapes and the natural environment in line with the aspiration to turn the country into a garden nation by 2005.

-- BERNAMA

SHS AT ES RM