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Mahathir-Malays

CHANGE ATTITUDE TO SUCCEED, DR MAHATHIR TELLS MALAYS

PUTRAJAYA, May 14 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said an attitudinal change is a prerequisite for the Malays to succeed as the other Malaysian communities.

For one, the Malays should discard the attitude and belief that they were incapable of doing anything, he said addressing 500 members of the Ex-Servicemen's Association of Malaysia today.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays only need to train to perform a task repeatedly and ethically at that until they attain expertise in a particular vocation.

"I think the Malays can be successful. In terms of brainpower and I have done my studies on this, I found that the Malays are equally intelligent as the Chinese," he said at the function at the Prime Minister's Department here.

However, he said, Malays tend to apply their expertise to preoccupy themselves with non-beneficial activities which left them straggling behind the other communities, let alone compete with them.

"That is why we fail," said the prime minister.

According to Dr Mahathir, failure to hold steadfastly to set values and uphold virtues also contributed to the Malays not accomplishing much in several fields.

The prime minister also thanked the veterans for defending the nation from all sorts of threats.

"In Malaysia, we do not have to force the citizens to be drafted for military service as there are always Malaysians prepared to give their lives in defence of the country.

"So long as there is this willingness, God willing, the country shall remain safeguarded from threats," he said.

He said Malaysians were a fortunate lot as they do not need mercenaries to protect them.

However he cautioned Malaysians that a country could be taken over not only through military force but also by the use of economic power to impoverish and subsequently occupy a nation.

"When we are poverty-ridden, we will be begging from others who in turn will impose certain conditions as had happened to some countries which are now at the beckon and call of outsiders," said Dr Mahathir.

As such the country also need to safeguard its economy in order to preserve its sovereignty, he said.

The prime minister also advised ex-servicemen intending to venture into business to observe high discipline as they had been in military life.

Association president Senator Datuk Muhammad Ghani was also present.

-- BERNAMA

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