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Mahathir-Formula

DO NOT ALLOW NATIONAL FORMULA TO BE DESTROYED- DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister today reminded the people not to permit the destruction of the unique national formula which had so far proved to be effective in bringing development and ensuring harmony in Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the formula was politics of moderation, racial unity, an administrative machinery receptive to directives and that which implemented policies drawn up by the government which was elected by the people.

"Vision 2020 is only 19 years away and is not something impossible to be achieved by the people of Malaysia if all these factors are in place," he said when addressing top servants at a function at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) at Bukit Kiara here.

He said all the factors which had contributed to the creation of a progressive and peaceful Malaysia should continue to be upheld.

He told his distinguished audience that he was impressed with their professionalism which had enabled the government's programmes and policies to be smoothly implemented for the benefit of the people.

Still there were signs of attempts to sow the seeds of hatred towards the government elected by the people, among members of the administration, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said there were already groups which claimed that the administrative machinery was unhappy with the government and made all kinds of allegations such as the government was corrupt, that it practised cronyism and was unIslamic.

He said such hatred was specifically directed against him.

"In view of this, the commitment to be a professional administrator is lost and at times government work is not done as required and this does not augur well," he said.

However such cases were not many and not serious to the extent of halting the development process and making the government ineffective, he said.

The Prime Minister said it was not that the government could not be challenged for a government without challenges would become a bad government and even over confident and would no longer heed the people's voice.

"When there is no challenge to the government, the government is going to be a bad government. Without challenges it will be over confident," he said.

In the democratic system if a government did not strive to fulfil its pledges to the people, it would collapse, he added.

Dr Mahathir, reiterating that he was glad over the level of professionalism of the national administration expressed the hope that civil servants would continue to accept and implement government policies and programmes and not allow personal feelings to overcome their professional consideration.

He said the national administration was among the most important factors which would determine Malaysia's ability to realise Vision 2020 and its capacity to face challenges much bigger than that over the last 43 years of independence.

"Do we have the capacity to continue developing the country? Can we ensure that relations among the various races will continue to be good? Can

we be certain that our politics will continue to be one of moderation and not extreme to the extent of damaging the country and changing the government all the time."

"Can we continue to have professional administration for our country?"

The Prime Minister continued to rain down such questions on the top civil servants who listened attentively to him.

In the democratic practice only the vote was used to change governments and there was no need for war but the government should not be changed just for the purpose of change.

Moreover any change in government at present would create national instability, Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir, in tracing the history of the country's administration since independence, said the capabilities of Malaysia's administration was acknowledged and recognised by the world.

To many countries Malaysia was no longer a developing country but a developed nation and a model to Third World countries and the Islamic world.

This recognition was in part due to vital factors in national administration such as efficiency, dedication, abiding by and sharing the vision of the government elected by the people and working hard to developing the country and the nation.

He said for the national administration to share the same vision with the government was not something bad for the people of Malaysia themselves had benefited from the government's policies and programmes such as a low cost of living.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia did not give priority to per capita income based on the GDP but rather to the purchasing power of the people.

For instance the United States had a GDP per capita income of US\$26,000 compared to Malaysia's US\$4,000 but their purchasing power was low as their cost of living was high compared to that of people in Malaysia.

"Even though our GDP per capita income is only US\$4,000 our purchasing power is nearly three times more or equivalent to US\$11,000," he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir also had a closed door dialogue with the civil servants. He then accompanied by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali and Public Services Department Director-General Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman attended Friday prayers at the Intan surau.

-- BERNAMA

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