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Mahathir-Umno

DR MAHATHIR WANTS UMNO MEMBERS TO CORRECT THEIR WEAKNESSES FIRST

SHAH ALAM, June 30 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the party members to correct their own weaknesses before they can make a bigger and more meaningful contribution to the party.

"We must correct ourselves first. Any weaknesses that we have must be discarded so that we can contribute to the party's struggle," he said when opening the Selangor Umno Convention here.

Only by inculcating noble values within themselves could the party members focus on the fulcrum of Umno's struggle, namely religion, race and the homeland, he said.

He advised the members to solve their own problems although it might be hard to do so now because in the end they would have a better future.

Later, at a media conference, he said he told them to focus on what they could do for themselves and not what the government should do for them.

He said the weaknesses of every Umno member must be rectified first so that the party would not weaken to the extent that it affected the struggle for the race.

Asked about the culture of passing resolutions and demanding assistance from the government, especially Umno, he said reasonable requests would be met.

"But to ask us to put money in people's pockets is difficult. You have to work for yourself slowly," he said.

Dr Mahathir said most of the demands and resolutions from conventions and the bumiputera economic congress referred to the poverty of the Malays.

That was why Umno stressed the concept of overcoming existing weaknesses so that Umno members and the Malays were not left behind in the economy.

He said the struggle for the race had still not succeeded because there were signs of the decline of the Malays after 43 years of independence and self-rule.

On the possibility of the Malays becoming second-class citizens when the country achieved developed nation status in 2020 Dr Mahathir said: "We are hoping that it will not happen, that's why I'm talking about it (Malays helping themselves), hopefully we will succeed,"

-- BERNAMA

RIZ RZS JK