

02/08/2001

Dr M's advice to businessmen on sustaining national development

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The younger generation should learn from the older generation to succeed in business and other fields, and contribute to the society and the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

At the same time, he said the older generation should also be willing to impart knowledge in the various fields to the younger generation.

He said this was necessary because whether it was in business or politics, the future leaders must acquire the necessary knowledge so that the country could continue to progress without any hinderance.

"It is natural that we all grow old, our place will be taken by the younger people, so the younger people must prepare to take over from the older people. It's the same in both politics and business."

Dr Mahathir said this when officiating at the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Malaysia (PUMM)'s "Learn from Malaysian Entrepreneur" campaign here tonight.

Emphasising on the need for more energetic and vibrant young Malaysian entrepreneurs, the Prime Minister said local businesses which had contributed to the wealth and success of the nation, should take the lead.

"A Government without a good business community would be a bankrupt government, the symbiotic relationship between the business community and the government is vital. We (government) don't just collect taxes for the sake of collecting, but in return we ensure the right environment for you to do business."

Dr Mahathir said the relationship among the Government, the business community and the people on the whole was so inter-related that it was impossible for any one party to move without the other.

"So, even if we are a successful business entity, it is our obligation to contribute to the society as without them, our success would be meaningless," he said.

Meanwhile, an entrepreneur development fund, the Zero-to-Hero Fund - launched at tonight's function, managed to raise RM250,000. Of the amount, RM125,000 was collected via the campaign organisers while another RM125,000 was contributed by PUMM founder and honorary president Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew.

Ten media organisations including New Straits Times Sdn Bhd and Berita Harian Sdn Bhd also signed a memorandum of understanding with PUMM to act as the association's strategic media partners.

NSTSB was represented by assistant group editor Jacob Paul while BHSB was represented by group editor Datuk Ahmad Rejal Arbee.

(END)