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Mahathir-Equality

EQUALITY POLICY CREATES LAID-BACK CITIZENS, SAYS DR M

PETALING JAYA, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The government's policy designed to achieve equality among multi-racial Malaysians has created among them a sense of security that caused some to be too laid-back, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"They did not see anything that is threatening at all. As a result, some people seem to be too laid back and not willing to make any effort," he said.

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions from the floor after delivering a luncheon talk organised by the Oxford-Cambridge Society of Malaysia here today.

He said the sense of security created by such government policy had somewhat backfired and perhaps it was overdone.

"It is not really my mistake, and I thought it is a good thing, but the response was not in the way we set it out," he said.

The government was correcting the mistake arising from the policy, he said when asked to appraise the best and worst ways that the Malaysian society had transformed under his stewardship of the country for the last 20 years.

He said the best transformation was initiated by the first Prime Minister the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra who secured independence for the country and followed it up by accessing to the free market system, including the introduction of state enterprises.

The late Tunku introduced pragmatism to Malaysian policies that greatly benefited the country's economy, Dr Mahathir said.

To a question whether, on stepping down, he would still guide his successor, Dr Mahathir said: "He will have to make his own decision and it is about time that I keep my mouth shut."

Dr Mahathir added he has no intention of being appointed as an adviser nor a senior minister upon his successor taking over

-- BERNAMA

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