

25 JAN 2001

Mahathir-Malays

M'SIAN MALAYS ARE EQUALLY CAPABLE AND IMPRESSIVE, SAYS PM

JITRA, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Malays are no less capable than their compatriots from the other communities and job-wise they hold equally top-notch and impressive positions, said the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Malaysian Malays are not only military generals, professors, pilots, lawyers but are also chief executive officers of multinational companies.

"This simply shows Malays are capable people. There are Malays who are 747 pilots and who hold other professional positions as well," he said when approached by reporters on recent remarks by his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong that Malays in the island republic were better off than Malaysian Malays.

Dr Mahathir said he was convinced that no one would take Malays in the country as less brainy and incapable of accomplishing something for their own interests.

"I don't see that in Malaysia. I don't wish to comment about Malays in Singapore. That's their country's problem. I don't want to make comparisons.

"Those are his (Goh's) comparisons. That's his business, I don't care, he can say whatever he likes," Dr Mahathir said.

While maintaining that Malaysians have the right to react to Goh's statement, Dr Mahathir said it was normal for close neighbours like Malaysia and Singapore to have ups and downs in their bilateral ties.

He was asked whether Goh's remarks would strain relations between the two countries.

To another question, Dr Mahathir said he had advised the authorities involved not to close down the University of Malaya's matriculation centre which was set up in 1977.

"My advice is that it should remain open," he said.

The impending closure of the centre in April was strongly opposed by academicians, former students and politicians who maintained that it should continue to serve as a nursery for Malay students to excel in the sciences.

-- BERNAMA

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