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Mahathir-Malays

MAHATHIR ELABORATES ON MALAY WEAKNESSES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he did not believe that the Malays are an unintelligent lot when he highlighted their weaknesses in his presidential address to the Umno General Assembly on Thursday.

He said the Malays are no less intelligent than the other races but they remained weak because they made no determined efforts for self-upliftment and mastery of knowledge which could only be attained through perseverance and doing things repeatedly until perfection.

"I am convinced that Malay male students do not bother to study at all and that explains their dismal marks in studies," he said when winding up debate on the last day of the 55th Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

According to Dr Mahathir, one would not attain proficiency or competence in whatever field through half-hearted efforts.

The message that he was trying to convey in the address was that Malay male students should study harder and not rely solely on the Malay quota for university enrolment, he said.

Dr Mahathir said if only Malay students were a hardworking lot, there was even no need for the 55:45 Malay-non-Malay quota for public university enrolment since they would merit a 100 per cent quota based on qualification alone.

He said from the overall perspective of both public and private university enrolments, the segment of Malay students was in fact only 25 per cent.

Quality-wise the achievement of Malay students was still low and for this reason none of them ever graduated with first class honours, he said.

"I wanted to show how to study, that is my intention. There is no short cut...there is no easy way. Take a short cut and down we go," he said.

The prime minister said Chinese students were clever not so much because of their brains but because they studied really hard.

"That is the reason why I want Malay students to study hard, stop going to listen to PAS lectures which will not help them pass examinations. Wake up early in the morning, start reading books straight away, do revision and homework, revise and revise again and they will eventually succeed," he said.

Dr Mahathir prompted laughter when he declared that it would not suffice for Malay students to only consume eggs to be good in studies as suggested by Kedah delegate Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin when debating the presidential address.

"I was impressed by his other points but I disagree with his suggestion that Malay students should eat more eggs to excel but made no mention about reading books after getting up in the morning," he said.

"If it is true that eating eggs makes one brainy, just tell me how many eggs are needed, I will donate as much as is required. In fact, there is no short cut. One has to read books," he said.

Dr Mahathir advised Malay students not to waste time listening to PAS political talks "which will not help them fare well in studies let alone enhance their religious knowledge."

He said a pair of local companies which produced microchips that each could store two million switches were among proofs that Malays are capable people.

He said he never imagined before that Petronas, the national oil corporation could compete with international oil companies and now operate in 25 countries.

Petronas, among other things, is currently helping Sudan produce 200,000 tonnes of crude oil a day as well as assist Algeria in processing liquefied gas, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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