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Mahathir-Terrorism

MALAYSIA DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE INNOCENT VICTIMISED

ALOR SETAR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia supports the United States' move to hunt down terrorist groups and stop terrorism but does not agree if the innocent are victimised in the process, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said that while supporting the US move, Malaysia did not want innocent countries to be made targets in the hunt for the terrorist groups.

"Hunting terrorism with weapons alone will not solve the problem completely as long as the anger among the oppressed still exists," he said when launching the Kedah Maju 2010 Action Plan at di Wisma Darul Aman here.

As such, he hoped that the problem which caused anger among the oppressed would also be resolved.

For example, he said, the people of Palestine were killed daily by organised terrorism using sophisticated weapons.

"If (we) want to wipe out terrorism, the problem (of oppression) in Palestine must be eradicated as well as that in Iraq and Chechnya. Only when there is no fresh oppression will the problem of terrorism be overcome," he said.

Malaysia, he said, disagreed with the use of terrorism to achieve the objectives of one's struggle.

He said the recent attacks on the US did not benefit anyone and had instead caused destruction to property and loss of lives.

Malaysia wanted to become a developed country not to be boastful but because it did not want to be oppressed. whether intentionally or otherwise, he said.

He said Malaysia was able to defend its economy from attacks by rogue currency traders during the economic crisis that hit the region in 1997 because of its development.

The prime minister said the Islamic countries were oppressed because they were weak.

The government develop Malaysia into a progressive Islamic country and this required efficiency in various fields like information technology, engineering and science besides religion.

"Malaysia is now safer than other Islamic countries and whether they want to or not, the foreigners will have to respect our views," he said.

The government wanted to develop the country in a systematic manner through short- and long-term development plans.

He said the government preferred to concentrate on development in the country although there were some parties which favoured destruction.

Malaysia was a democratic country and a change of government could be effected through the ballot and as such, there was no reason for terrorism to occur in the country, he said.

He urged all strata of society, including political leaders and government officers to support the development efforts of the state and federal government because development would keep oppression at bay.

The Kedah Maju 2010 Action Plan is a development plan to make Kedah a developed state by 2010.

The development will focus on the industries, information communication technology (ICT), tourism, agriculture, education, human resource development and infrastructure.

Kedah, among other things, intends to achieve an annual gross domestic

product (GDP) growth of 15 per cent and to attract RM1 billion investment to the industrial sector annually.

The plan is an extension of the 10-year Kedah Development Plan which ended last year.

-- BERNAMA

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