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Mahathir-Economy

MULTI-RACIAL CITIZENS TO OCCUPY NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH CENTRES

IPOH, April 7 (Bernama) -- The government will ensure that occupants of future economic growth centres, under the Eight Malaysia Plan, will comprise of multi-racial citizens, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said this was an important initiative under the plan which would ensure that all citizens enjoy facilities that are provided.

"The new economic growth centres will not be confined to one race only and the participation of all races will be given prominence in an effort to integrate the participation of all races in a certain field," he added.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the end of his two-day visit to Perak at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport, here.

On poverty, he said the government was trying to reduce poverty and one of the ways identified was to reintegrate the society so that Bumiputera participation, which was affected by the recent recession, could be alleviated.

As for the Eight Malaysia Plan, the Prime Minister said workers' skill would be upgraded in order to compete in a globalised arena.

"Against the present scenario of an economic slowdown in the United States, we would be affected as a majority of our products are exported to the United States," said Dr Mahathir.

He said, what was important now was to enhance the capability of workers, to create more knowledge workers and to re-train workers.

"Apart from this, we will also invest in information and communication technology," he added.

On strengthening ties with the United States, Dr Mahathir said it was the Malaysia's policy to have cordial ties with all countries.

"But for specific reasons, ties with the United States is not cordial and now and we want to forge a good relationship.

"However, from a business point of view, the ongoing bilateral trade with the United States is excellent and there is no problems," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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