

03 APR 2001

OPP3-Mahathir-Policy

NATIONAL VISION POLICY TO ESTABLISH PROGRESSIVE BANGSA MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- The National Vision Policy, which was tabled simultaneously with the Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) today, is aimed at establishing a progressive and prosperous Bangsa Malaysia that lives in harmony and engages in full and fair partnership.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said economic growth would be promoted alongside efforts aimed at poverty eradication and restructuring of society, as well as reducing social, economic, and regional imbalances.

He said while improving material welfare and raising the level of prosperity, special effort would also be made to instil positive social and spiritual values to balance rampant materialism.

"In addition, the National Vision Policy will pursue environmentally friendly and sustainable development to ensure that the environment is clean, healthy and attractive as well as capable of sustaining the nation's needs and aspirations," he said when tabling the OPP3 in the Dewan Rakyat today.

The Prime Minister said the first phase of Vision 2020, which saw the successful implementation of the National Development Policy during the 1990s, has enabled the country to achieve rapid growth with wide-ranging transformation of its economic, social, physical and institutional landscape.

The Prime Minister said in recognising the challenges ahead arising from globalisation, national development policies would be directed towards building a resilient and competitive nation.

"To be able to produce goods and services that can compete in the global marketplace, we Malaysians will have to be more disciplined and competent in whatever we do," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysians should always be mindful of the peace and harmony that the country is blessed with as it formed the bedrock on which development efforts are built.

"We should forge national unity and nurture a tolerant and caring society for the well-being and prosperity for all," he added.

The Prime Minister said if pleas for rationality in the expression of dissatisfaction over political, economic or social issues are ignored, we must accept the need for a stricter enforcement of the laws of the country.

Dr Mahathir also said that the new dimensions of the National Vision Policy among others, entailed developing Malaysia into a knowledge-based society, generating endogenously-driven growth through strengthening domestic investment and developing national capability, increasing the dynamism of agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors and addressing pockets of poverty in remote areas and among Orang Asli and Bumiputera minorities in Sabah and Sarawak.

It also outlined achieving effective Bumiputera participation as well as equity participation of at least 30 per cent by 2010 and reorientate human resource development to support a knowledge-based society.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians should strive for political maturity and not be sidetracked into parochialism and extremism in their views.

He added that for a united and harmonious Malaysian society, there should be tolerance and acceptance of the diverse traditions of the country's multicultural society.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysian must be prepared to work hard

and work smart, be disciplined and have good work ethics.

He added that the National Vision Policy required total commitment from all and everyone should be prepared to work hard to achieve the target.

"We must be prepared to reinvent ourselves, to change our mindsets, to be innovative, resourceful and disciplined, as well as to have a sense of urgency in the face of increasing challenges," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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