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Mahathir-Patriotism

PATRIOTISM CAN HELP M'SIA RETAIN KNOWLEDGED WORKERS, SAYS MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said patriotism should be instilled among Malaysians from young so that they will be more committed to serving the country upon becoming knowledgeable.

He said the sense of patriotism would enable Malaysian knowledgeable workers to resist the temptation to go abroad for better income.

"We may have to make bigger and bigger Jalur Gemilang (the national flag) and we hope that they will get attracted to the four colours of the Jalur Gemilang... to stay in the country and love the country," he said in jest during a dialogue here today with participants of the National Conference on the National Vision Policy, the Eighth Malaysia Plan and privatisation.

Earlier he delivered a keynote address entitled "Achieving Sustainable Growth, Strengthening Economic Resilience - Malaysia's Path To Prosperity" at the conference in Bandar Sunway here.

Dr Mahathir said the government had done its utmost to produce the required number of personnel in important industries especially the Information Technology (IT) sector but at the same time faced the danger of them migrating for better income.

Workers would normally stay in the country if reasonably paid but it was difficult for them to refuse offers 10 times their pay from richer countries, he said.

While many people believed that workers who went abroad would eventually return home and bring back the money from the rich countries, the assumption was not always true, he said.

The prime minister said some of the workers who went abroad had become comfortable in another country and once they began raising their children there, the children cannot be expected to think of Malaysia as their home.

Dr Mahathir said what Malaysia could do was to keep training more people and he acknowledged that there was no solution to the problem of them migrating except that Malaysians themselves were prepared to serve the country with a strong sense of patriotism and commitment.

-- BERNAMA

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