

06 APR 2001

Mahathir-Stability

STABILITY VITAL FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS

IPOH, April 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysians can master all the knowledge needed to develop the country if it remains stable and the existing good ties among the races are maintained, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The prime minister said the people's capability had been proven by their success in acquiring knowledge and sophisticated skills, especially the country's ability to be the third biggest microchip producer in the world.

"Microchips are used in almost all products in this world. In fact, spaceships which landed on the moon carried microchips which were made in Penang," he said at a dinner with the people in conjunction with his official visit to Perak.

Dr Mahathir said this showed that the people were capable of developing the country if they were responsible and serious about the tasks at hand.

"I am confident that if we preserve the peace in the country and are not trapped and influenced by the rampant false claims made in the country, we can achieve our objective of becoming a developed nation in 2020," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the contributions of all sectors of society, including businessmen of all races, had made it possible for the government to collect taxes to build the various infrastructure.

"All this can be done as long as we are aware of our responsibility to the country irrespective of our racial background because we all have a duty to develop the country," he said.

He said the people should not be jealous of the rich because for every RM1 profit they made, 28 sen would go to the government as income tax and this money was used to develop the country.

In fact, every product bought or development project undertaken by them would also generate job and business opportunities for the people, he said.

The prime minister said the people should realise that they were dependent on each other and that they could enjoy the good life because of the prevailing peace in the country.

"I believe that if we are aware of this fact, we will definitely not waste time creating problems in the country by resorting to irresponsible actions like holding demonstrations and the like," he said.

He said any action taken must be within the bounds of decency because the country was a democracy with a government elected by the people.

-- BERNAMA

HK KAY YBY