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Mahathir-Relevance

UMNO MUST BE REJUVENATED BY YOUNG GENERATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SHAH ALAM, May 11 (Bernama) -- Umno must be rejuvenated by young members so that it will continue to be relevant in its struggle for the religion, race and country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said that the young generation in Umno Youth and Puteri Umno must equip itself with knowledge and efficiency to preserve what Umno had developed all this while.

"The young generation must hold strongly to the spirit of Umno's struggle when it takes over from the old leaders, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said at the party's 56th anniversary celebrations here.

He said Umno's struggle was a noble one that benefited everyone.

"Umno has succeeded in bringing the Malays to be on par with the others. We want this to be maintained when the young generation takes over the leadership," he said.

He said Umno's struggle demanded that the Malays achieve success through their own ability.

"We can do anything. The Malays are not weak, the Malays are not stupid, the Malays will not lose their spirit. We have our own quality," he said.

He said there were Malays who were prepared to climb mountains, sail alone around the world and walk everywhere to show that their race could do it.

Dr Mahathir also prayed for the success of a Malay youth who is currently in England training to swim across the English Channel.

"I hope that the Malaysian flag can be flown there so that the world can recognise the ability of the Malays," he said.

Speaking at a media conference later, he said he believed the the young generation in Umno Youth and Puteri Umno could bring changes to the party.

What was important, he said, was that the two wings must spread the word on Umno and the fruit of its struggle so that more people would choose the party.

He also expressed his confidence that Umno would continue to rule the country after it was taken over by the young leaders.

"Ensure that they are united and disciplined and that there is no jostling for posts and, God willing, Umno will remain as the ruling party for our nation," he said.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ DC JK