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Mahathir-Malays

MALAY ECONOMIC DISPARITY ISSUE TO BE TACKLED WITH WISDOM, SAYS PM

PENANG, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the issue of economic disparity between urban and rural Malays should be tackled calmly and with wisdom.

He said that the government had been aware of the problem as it had long existed and it had taken measures to resolve the problem.

"We will strive to make efforts to rectify the matter. We will identify factors which contribute to the disparity," he told reporters after attending a luncheon hosted in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the electronics industry in Penang.

His deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon were present.

The Prime Minister said that the government would deal with those contributing factors and at the same time it would take into account feedback from the Malay community.

Asked to comment on Keadilan's support for the implementation of the hudud by the PAS-led Terengganu government, Dr Mahathir said: "Keadilan doesn't understand what hudud is all about, that's why the party is giving its support."

He said that Keadilan was actually giving political support to PAS. "Keadilan has forgotten that it has generally been made a tool of by PAS," he said.

Referred to the proposal by Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik for the setting up of a national education commission to study the education policy without any political interference, Dr Mahathir said that the government would study the proposal.

-- BERNAMA

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