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Mahathir-Business

MALAYS CANNOT FOREVER DO BUSINESS ALONG FIVE-FOOT WAYS

ALOR STAR, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today urged Malays to upgrade their business so that they will not have to trade all the time along five-foot ways.

He said Malays should plan and set up business in permanent premises so that it would expand and progress.

"Malays cannot go on trading in fivefoot ways until the years 2100, 2200 and 2300. We have to raise our standard," he told reporters after shopping at Pekan Rabu here.

He said the price of goods sold at such premises might cost a little more but could still be expanded as the market was there for such goods.

However the quality of the goods should be maintained, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the "Meat Shop" was among the best examples which should be emulated by Malay traders, as the place was clean, attractive and the packaging was also done well.

The Prime Minister earlier visited the "Meat Shop", owned by a Malay businessman, which opened for business at Taman Anggerik here, at the end of last month.

The shop is a one-stop centre where consumers could buy all types of halal fresh meat and meat-based products at reasonable prices.

Dr Mahathir said the government would help Malay traders upgrade their business and ensure it was on par with those in other countries provided they were hardworking and had the potential to be successful.

On Hari Raya shopping, he said it was a positive development from the economic aspect.

"Our retail business is better than in most other countries," he said.

The Prime Minister said, "We have to be thankful that inspite of the attempts to create doubts about this country, our economy is not affected as Malaysians are continuing to do business and the people have the freedom to buy what they like."

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent about an hour shopping and chatting with Malay traders at the Pekan Baru Complex.

Their purchases included cakes and other Hari Raya items.

Like in previous years, the Prime Minister called at Sardi Dahar Songkok shop to collect his songkoks which he had ordered.

Dr Mahathir has been shopping at Sardi Dahar long before he became Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister broke the fast at the Kampung Gelong Rambai Mosque in Jitra near here.

-- BERNAMA

MNH RSL AAM