

18/06/2002

Malays urged to push harder to earn respect

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said Malays must admit their weaknesses and immediately make self-correction if they want to be respected by other races.

He said despite the assistance and special privileges given since Independence, Malays had not changed or achieved much until today.

"The whole Malay society is not pushing hard enough.

"There are leaders and others who tried to push them to change their attitude and become progressive and independent but the "big push" is just not there," he said, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was one of the prime movers.

In an interview in Mingguan Malaysia, Dr Mahathir expressed disappointment that Malays still did not want to work hard to improve themselves and preferred to continue to depend on the Government.

The Umno president believed Malays could achieve more if they had enough confidence to overcome three problems that were hindering them: not prepared to work hard, study hard and do things seriously.

Muhammad said the Malays would end up becoming a disappointed lot if they did not grab the opportunities available in various fields, especially ICT and technology.

"They have to do it now because the political scenario in the next 10 or 20 years may be different from what they are today," he warned.

He said the time had come for the Malays to admit that something about themselves was wrong and did some re-evaluation of their performance to rectify the shortcomings.

One problem which needed to be addressed, he said, was the lack of interest to excel in education.

"Prophet Muhammad taught us to seek knowledge but we are taking this lightly," he said.

(END)