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Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS WARNED OF WHAT AWAITS THEM IF THEY REMAIN DISUNITED

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- If the Malays continue to be disunited and questioning every move made by the government, they will be marginalised, not just in Penang but all over the country, warned Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said a worse fate would befall them if they were also lazy to improve their standard of living.

"This will lead to degradation of their race, not just in Penang but all over the country.

"The Malays in this country must not forget. At one time, we were almost like Singapore and we must remember that in the 30s the migrants formed the majority of the population.

"Had it continued, we would not be in power in our own country," he said told reporters after presenting a briefing at the Puteri Umno's information session on meeting and election procedures at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He was asked to comment on the statement made by Tanjung Umno divisional chief Datuk Ahmad Ibni Hajar that the Malay minority in Penang were a very unfortunate lot because they were neglected by the state government.

Ahmad had said state government did not give their areas attention as much as those populated by the Chinese such as Georgetown, Bukit Mertajam, Bayan Baru and Tanjung Bungah.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays still failed to realise the disadvantage position they were in when some of them were influenced by tactics of opposition parties such as PAS.

"We told the Malays not to be divided but when PAS was formed, the Malays became divided. Before PAS, the Malays were united in Umno. There was no problem," he said.

On claim that few economic opportunities were given to the Malays, Dr Mahathir said all communities in the country get their fair share.

"We have given them substantial economic opportunities...but sometimes what we gave them, they gave to other people instead," he said.

In this respect, Dr Mahathir said they should conduct a self-analysis and make amends, not blaming others for their misfortune.

"All people make mistake. We cannot point a finger to others only. What is important is for us to ask ourselves whether we have discharge our responsibility very well or not," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SOP AHH ABG