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Umno-Reaction (Component)

PM'S SPEECH SERVES AS REMINDER FOR NON-MALAYS, SAYS DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to the Malays to change their attitude and work hard to be more competitive should also be taken as a reminder by the other races, said Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the people could regard the prime minister's speech at the Umno General Assembly as a driving force to progress further.

"What's important is that one race should learn from the other. By cooperating in various fields, the people can achieve national integration," he told reporters after Dr Mahathir opened the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Dr Mahathir's advice was timely given the immense outside influence that could poison the people's mind.

He said the people should accept Dr Mahathir's advice by making amends to themselves to improve the present situation.

"If we do not accept his advice, we will lag behind and we cannot build a modern nation as aspired by the prime minister," he said.

Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik hoped the Malays would heed Dr Mahathir's advice to strengthen their position and avoid from being influenced by certain parties which abused Islam.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak (PBB) President Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Dr Mahathir expressed his concern not only in his capacity as the Prime Minister but as a person who loved and cared for his race.

Dr Mahathir's speech should be taken as a lesson, especially by the younger generation, in deciding their destiny, he said.

People's Progressive Party (PPP) President Datuk M. Kayveas also concurred that Dr Mahathir's speech was aimed at all Malaysians.

The people should work hard in all fields, including in business, and not involved in "Ali Baba" businesses, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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