

26 OCT 2002

Mahathir-Patriotism

PEOPLE URGED TO MAINTAIN PATRIOTIC SPIRIT FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The spirit of patriotism among the people is crucial when the country is still exposed to the threat of economic imperialism, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said economic oppression might be carried out through the process of globalisation and several other ways.

"We can have differing opinions in national politics, it's alright but when we are faced with the possibility of other people colonising us, dominating us, we should close ranks, this is what patriotism is about," he said.

"We close ranks, we forget about the conflict between us so that we can concentrate on defending the country," he said at a dialogue with participants of the National Patriotism Congress at the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Training Centre, in Bangi near here.

He said although the country had succeeded in overcoming several challenges, the people should not be complacent and should contribute towards national resilience.

"Alhamdulillah (Thank God), we succeeded actually, that's why we are among only a few small nations, developing nations capable of voicing our opinion, to criticise even against major powers," he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia was not afraid to express its opinion at the international level and was respected by the other countries because of the people's strong support for the government.

He cited examples that the letters he had written to world leaders received response including from United States President George W. Bush.

"We don't agree with them, we can still say (we) disagree, but many other countries may not be able to do this because they have weak administration or government which do not receive solid support from the people," he added.

-- Bernama

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