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Mahathir-Youth

DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS NEED MORE ACTION THAN TALK, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told youths to focus on developing the country into a developed nation instead of engaging in polemics on government policies.

The prime minister said this was because it was not policies alone that determined the success or failure of a project but rather the actions taken to make it a success.

"This is the approach in Malaysia where if there is a plan we will continue implementing it, and anything found unsuitable will be rectified after implementation to ensure the success of the project," he said when launching the National Youth Day Gathering 2003 at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here today.

He said the people should not be obsessed with debating what needed to be done as this would only create confusion and impede national development efforts.

Even if there were weaknesses in existing policies, efforts should be made to ensure that the policies and programmes drawn up could be implemented successfully, he said.

"This is the way we develop our country," he said.

Stressing the need for action, he said the government had proceeded with the national car project although the proposal had sparked debates on whether it could succeed as the country was a developing nation and lacked the technology.

"If we had left it at debates only without making any decision, there would be no Proton and national car today," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this approach in continuing with policies and plans that were drawn up had brought many successes to the country.

He reminded youths to equip themselves with skills and to go about their tasks with determination and diligence to help make a success of the country's policies and plans.

"All youths should make preparations to take over the role of adults in making Malaysia a developed country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should work hard as there was only 17 years left for them to realise the Vision 2020 objective of turning Malaysia into a developed country.

Youths, as the group that would inherit the country's leadership, should continue to develop the country to ensure that the coming generation could also enjoy the progress brought by the present leaders, he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir received a RM300,000 contribution from the Malaysian Youth Council for the Malaysian International Peace Fund.

He also presented the Youth Ambassador Award to Maznah Zulkifli for her excellent work in various fields.

Maznah has served as a TV host and a drama artiste and is active in motorsports, endurance sports and the advertising industry.

She is listed in the "Malaysia Book of Records" as the first woman in Asia to fly a motorised paraglider.

Dr Mahathir also gave away the National Youth Award for various categories -- the men's award to Datuk Hasan Malik, the women's award to Lau Kwai Chun, the leadership award to Idris Harun, the volunteerism award to Mohd Asrol Ismail and the entrepreneurship award to Zabidi Jaafar.

The Youth Organisation Premier Award went to Persatuan Belia Generasi Tenaga Remaja Felda Sungai Sayong, Kota Tinggi, Johor.

-- BERNAMA
HK MFJ YBY