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Budget-Challenge

DON'T BE COMPLACENT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysians must be prepared to face the global challenges as the country is not spared the impact of the difficult external environment, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that despite the country having achieved significant progress since Independence, Malaysians could not be complacent with the continued success.

"The external environment continues to remain difficult with increasing threats and intimidations as well as aggression and oppression," he said when tabling the 2004 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat.

"The peace that we hope for is still far away, while the acts of terrorism that we abhor, still have not subsided," said Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister.

In concluding his three-hour speech, he said Malaysians could not be complacent but should instead be courageous and steadfast to face obstacles.

"We must be willing to sacrifice, set aside our self-interests and avoid discord and conflicts among us.

"We must be more tolerant, reinforce our cooperation and foster unity towards building a prosperous and harmonious Malaysian society," he said.

"I pray to the Almighty that our beloved nation will continue to be bestowed with prosperity and dignity," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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