

30 OCT 2003

Mahathir-Malays

FORMATION OF "MELAYU BARU" SHOULD BE RENEWED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- In his parting speech as Umno president to party leaders and members, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the formation of "Melayu Baru" or New Malays should be renewed so that the race could be at par with other communities in the world.

He said the Malays should change their attitude to be more bold, more willing to face challenges and have greater credibility.

"There is still so much more to be done by the Malays in terms of attitude change before they can become an advanced race," he said at a breaking of the fast with the Umno president and deputy president at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here today.

He said the Malays could be successful if they changed their values in life to suit the values needed to become a progressive race.

Every Umno member and leader must be determined to ensure that the party achieved success, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the formation of Melayu Baru currently was better because they were more confident of themselves and also more successful.

However, more successes could be achieved if the formation of the Melayu Baru currently were further revised, he said.

They must eliminate the tendency to quarrel, to indulge in power struggle, to practise money politics for position, as well as jealousy.

"If we continue to adopt these practices it is impossible for the Malays to succeed.

"I call on Umno members to forget self-interest, place party interest above individual interest as it is the party that determines the success of the nation," he said.

"Love Umno....develop Umno," Dr Mahathir said.

He said that they should not destroy the party merely to promote self-interest or that of a particular person.

He said only the party could form the government in Malaysia and not individuals.

As such, he said party members and leaders must ensure that it was the party that succeeded and not individuals.

While appreciating the accolades showered upon him by Umno leaders and members for his contribution to the party and nation, he said seeing the party members working together to bring the party to greater heights and rejecting disputes would be a more meaningful appreciation for him.

"I will appreciate this more than words (of praises)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said besides being diligent, determined and disciplined, the Malays should also feel ashamed if they neglected the party.

"Only the race that knows the feeling of shame will be successful," he said.

He said there were races that were prepared to commit suicide because of shame but Umno did not want its members to commit suicide but to correct their attitude and values in life.

"The success or failure of a race is not based on skin colour but their culture and values in life," he said.

Dr Mahathir thanked all Umno members who had supported him when he was party president and Prime Minister.

"I urge members to give the same support to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi after this," he said.

Dr Mahathir will step down as Prime Minister and Umno president at 3pm

tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah later joined thousands of Umno leaders and members in performing the magrib, isyak and terawih prayers at PWTC.

-- BERNAMA

JM AT AHH AO