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Mahathir-policy

GOVT CONSIDERS ALL VIEWS WHEN FORMULATING POLICIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR GAJAH, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government considered all views in the formulation of its policies.

"The government does not formulate a policy without planning, without considering the views of others and without taking into account the global developments," he said when opening a Honda car factory in Pegoh industrial area here.

In this way, the Prime Minister said, the government was able to pursue the development of the developed countries while providing a better quality of life to the people.

Dr Mahathir said that when the government decided to make a switch from agro-based economy to that of industries, many people including Malaysians scoffed at the policy, but the approach taken by the government to invite foreign investors to Malaysia had resulted in manufactured goods currently making up 80 per cent of the country's exports.

Prior to achieving Independence and the early years that followed, Malaysia was incapable of producing its own cars but now Malaysian-made cars were of the same standard of quality as any others in the world, he said.

He attributed the success to the country's efficient workers.

"A good blue print, a good technology, but without good workers, it is not likely to produce high quality cars," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians needed a good work culture and discipline to produce goods of the same high quality and in large quantity for the local and world markets.

"If we were to build our own Honda cars, we could not complete even if it takes us our whole life. But with discipline and by working in this factory, we have proven that Malaysians in particular the Malays can produce goods of quality," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said some people could not find employment because factories were located far away from their kampung and also they were reluctant to leave their kampung in search of jobs.

As such, he said the government introduced the concept of "one kampung, one product" which proved to be successful in Japan but unfortunately not so in Malaysia due to the attitude of the people and lack of discipline when working in their own homes.

He said the government had thus decided to adopt a new approach by creating kampung industrial sites where it would set up factories and employ the people.

"This new approach, I believe, will achieve success. Malaysians can work in factories but not in their own homes. The government proposes that the small and medium industries (SMIs) pool available manpower in the kampung...middle aged women and men who could work," he said.

Dr Mahathir also touched on the work environment in Malaysia where the people of different races could work together to ensure the success of a factory.

He said the development of Information Technology (IT) was capable of providing high income to the people.

Realising the potential, he said the government decided that the teaching of Science and Mathematics be carried out in English to ensure that the people would acquire IT skill and knowledge.

"This is because the basic knowledge of IT is in English. Learning

English does not mean that we love of our own language less but the love to create an identity for our race," he said.

Dr Mahathir congratulated Honda for completing the factory in 17 months and locating their manufacturing operations in Malaysia, which reflected the company's confident in the government and the people's ability.

Also present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, DRB-Hicom Bhd Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong who is also Honda Malaysia Chairman and Honda Motor Co. Ltd Japan Senior Managing Director Katsuro Suzuki.

-- BERNAMA

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