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Mahathir-Way

KEEP DOING THINGS OUR WAY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia must ensure that it keeps doing things its own way to maintain the progress that it has achieved so far.

The prime minister said that it was his hope after his retirement to see the people continue to live in comfort as a result of the nation's progress.

"We have succeeded in building a country that has given us a good life, that has given us pride, that is respected by everybody. We have done all these our way and we must always try and preserve this way of ours so that in coming years Malaysia will continue to develop and progress and its people will continue to live in comfort.

"This is the wish of all of us. This is also my wish when I step down from the political arena," Dr Mahathir, who is retiring on Friday, said when opening the general assembly of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) here.

He said Malaysia had done many things that were not done in other countries, like making every festive celebration a national celebration to strengthen unity among the people.

"It's our way of fostering ties among the communities, among the followers of different religions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that as a result of Malaysia's success, Malaysians were able to make a living abroad but at the same time they were proud to be Malaysians.

"I was in Papua New Guinea (two days ago). There are 3,000 Malaysians in Papua New Guinea where previously there was none. They do business there, they are successful, they don't forget that they are from Malaysia.

"They are proud to be Malaysians, this is a new thing, pride in being a Malaysian wherever they may be," he said.

This, he said, was the result of Malaysia's success, which in turn stemmed from the ruling coalition's unselfishness in sharing its power.

"The Barisan Nasional's way is through sharing. We're not greedy, we don't take everything for ourselves. We are willing to give a share to others who are also entitled to it and they in turn give us what's due to us.

"We share and share fairly so that everybody can have his portion of the wealth and well-being...this is our way," he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded Malaysians to lead a noble life because high ability and knowledge alone could not ensure success for the nation.

Without a noble culture, the knowledgeable and the capable could abuse their skills for bad intentions, he said.

"We may study until we obtain a doctorate, a PhD, that's our ability but if our culture is bad, we will use our prowess to plan a bank robbery, for example.

"That's why we need not only knowledge but a good culture that can do us good and bring us success," he said.

The prime minister also said that he was puzzled that despite the country's success, there were some Malaysians who still opposed the government's efforts to foster unity, which was the cornerstone of this success.

He said the government's effort to get the non-Malays to study in the national schools to promote the spirit of unity was initially misconceived as an attempt to sideline the vernacular schools.

The government's move to set up vision schools, which house the three types of schools under one roof, was also misconceived as an attempt to eradicate the mother tongue of the other communities, he said.

"There's no motive. Only in Malaysia do we have schools where the language is not the national language, in other countries in Southeast Asia it's not allowed, in the United States, there's none, in Australia there's no Chinese school funded by Australians.

"I don't understand the reason for this attitude when our country gives us all a good life," he said.

-- BERNAMA

NM KHY JK