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Mahathir-Wish

MAKE A SUCCESS OF MALAYSIA, PM TELLS MALAYSIANS

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- The best farewell gift that Malaysians can give to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is retiring at the end of this month is to make a success of Malaysia.

The 77-year-old Prime Minister, when asked if there was one wish or dream that he would want after being at the helm of the country for 22 years, said the people might miss him upon his retirement but the best that they could do was to make a success of the country, either by supporting the government or by doing something well if given the opportunity.

"If you are doing business, you do good business. When you are in the government, you (must) work very hard to bring about the right results and all that. I think that is what we do to society what we owe to society," he said in an interview with Bernama yesterday.

The 70-minute interview was conducted by Bernama chairman Datuk Kalimullah Hassan, editor-in-chief Jaafar Hussin, and executive editors Datuk Azman Ujang and Yong Soo Heong.

The Prime Minister said he was pleased with the progress of some of the Malays as they not only held high positions and drew high salaries these days but had also become that successful in business.

"To that extent, I am happy with their performance," he said.

Dr Mahathir said one of the things that he wanted to see when he became Prime Minister in 1981 was to see the names of Malay executives printed in the newspapers, either being appointed or getting promoted as there was not many back then.

However, he also lamented on the attitude of some Malays who had not made use of the opportunities that the government had created for them.

"Nobody succeeds if you have the wrong culture," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was also pleased with the rapid strides made by Malaysian women in the last few years, including the corporate sector.

"In the private sector, we have a lot of women who are very successful, maybe not as successful as the few men who very prominent but they are successful. There are (women) executives. In many businesses, they even head foreign companies. I think they are doing quite well and they are going to do better because now 70 per cent of the students in universities are women," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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