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Mahathir-slogan

"MALAYSIA BOLEH" NOT AN EMPTY SLOGAN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 10 (bernama) -- "Malaysia Boleh", a slogan that has encouraged Malaysians to do almost anything possible, is no longer an empty slogan as it really gets into them and even among foreigners, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the slogan had actually made Malaysians to try their best and do anything possible than any other people.

"It is a frame of mind, a mind-set that has been engendered and made to change so that we can do most of anything that we want," he told some 800 guests at the Malaysian Institute of Directors' Banquet 2003 here tonight.

Thanking the implementors and the people who had executed all the orders given to them, the Prime Minister said some people including, chief executives officers and the public had scepticism of new ventures due to their failure to understand them or thinking that it was not possible to do it.

Citing the national car project as an example, he said Malaysians were so sceptical about but now it had been proven that Malaysia could produce its own national car.

"Usually there is a great scale of scepticism, at least that was my experience when we suggest something or I suggest something. Those who are supposed to implement them are very sceptical about it, the public also very sceptical, and the newspapers are the most sceptical of all, they never agreed that we can do anything at all," he said.

But by getting a few people to implement the national car project initially, he said the idea of having heavy industry had materialised with almost 80 per cent now of the vehicles on the road are Malaysian made.

He also cited the Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) cycling race as another example. When it was first mooted, it was supposed to be just a race in Langkawi but somehow it developed into a national event with an international status and the best cycling race outside Europe.

He said the race, the eighth in the series which ended yesterday at the Dataran Merdeka, was actually a very good investment for the country and had helped to promote Malaysia as tourist destination to the world.

Dr Mahathir, who has been dubbed as the CEO of Malaysia Incorporated, said it hardly meant anything as what the CEOs actually did was just to make decision and direct others to execute and implement the decisions.

"The executional part, the people working under the CEOs, they are the real CEOs. CEO is not an executive, he is a person who directs things...Without these people, the CEO is nothing," he said.

He said Malaysia was lucky to have people who could carry out orders.

Saying that he was indeed honoured with all the compliments and kind words given to him, Dr Mahathir said a lot of things have been said about him and Malaysia for the past 20 years, ever since he held the premiership.

Thanking all his predecessors, Dr Mahathir said that he had inherited the best system of governance from all of them, right from the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj to the late Tun Hussein Onn.

He said Tunku Abdul Rahman had set a foundation of how all the races in Malaysia could work together and he came up with the idea of a coalition party.

"It was the pre-election coalition government formed by Tunku Abdul Rahman and enlarged by the late Tun Abdul Razak into Barisan Nasional, and since then it is easy for us to win with a two-third majority," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had benefited a lot from the coalition system which was a very good foundation for the country.

"I inherited such a very good government and I have tried to stimulate the forces we have and that all the decisions that I have made now have been delivered, and enabled us to make good progress," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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