

21 JUN 2003

Mahathir-Winding-up (Contract)

MALAY CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COMPETE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Malay contractors must be prepared to compete not only with the other races but also with their fellow Malays.

The prime minister said that the battle for contracts was now occurring not only among the Malay, Chinese and Indian contractors but also among the Malays themselves.

"We don't think of giving contracts to Umno members only because the government must also be sympathetic to the non-Umno members," Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said when winding up the debate on the award of contracts to Umno members on the last day of the party's 54th general assembly.

He said the government encouraged competition to give a fair chance to all the people.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno was getting bigger with its membership exceeding 3 million out of the 11.7 million Malays in the country.

"This means that there's an Umno member for every four Malays," he said.

He said that although not all Malays were Umno members, the non-members were also important because they were voters.

Dr Mahathir again reminded the people to know the Europeans who constantly attempted to conquer others mentally and physically.

He also supported Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's suggestion in his winding-up speech that a School Of Occidental Studies be set up in local institutions of higher learning.

"This is not to hate them but to know their characteristics because whenever we want to negotiate with a person, we must know his personality. If he's a rogue, negotiate the roguish way, if he's good, negotiate the good way," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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