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Lim-Merdeka

MALAYSIA NEEDS TO NURTURE NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS, SAYS KENG YAIK

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- The country needs to nurture a new generation of leaders who would ensure its continued peace and prosperity, Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

In his Merdeka Day message, he said the year 2003 was an important year in Malaysian politics, when a new leadership would be taking over and a new generation had emerged that would assume the role of nation-building.

He hoped that the new generation would continue to build a prosperous, peaceful and united Malaysia on the foundation already laid by their predecessors.

Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said this year's Merdeka Day would be different because it was set to witness historical changes within and outside Malaysia.

"In Malaysia, (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad), who has in the last 22 years led the nation into modernisation, will step down to be succeeded by (Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Abdullah (Ahmad Badawi) to lead Malaysians and carry on with the tasks initiated by Dr Mahathir," he said.

"While celebrating Merdeka Day, we are, at the same time, preparing a farewell to Dr Mahathir and looking forward to a new era under Abdullah.

"At a time when we are preparing a farewell to Dr Mahathir, it's only natural that we look back at the roadmap that Dr Mahathir charted for us over the past 22 years," he said.

Internationally, the vicious cycle of terrorism has caused the deaths of an increasing number of innocent people, thereby further deepening the hatred among men, Lim said.

He said the meaning of independence also means that men acquiring independence should control their own fate and vision for to move forward.

"In this respect, Dr Mahathir has laid down Vision 2020 of making Malaysia a developed nation, where Malaysians will no longer be identified by race but live together in a fair, equitable, progressive, prosperous and caring society and be proud of being a Bangsa Malaysia," he said.

Dr Lim also called on young Malaysians to continue with the effort of nation-building and strive to achieve the target set out in Vision 2020.

-- BERNAMA

AT KHY SRI