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Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS CAN'T DEPEND ON THE 'CANE' FOREVER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The Malays can't be depending on others forever or continue to use the 'walking stick' to succeed in their own country, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister wants the Malay Studies and Strategies Foundation (YKSM), which is being launched tomorrow, to find ways of generating a major shift so that the Malays would not continue to lag behind in the mainstream of socio-economic and political development in the country.

"Without an effective and smart strategy and approach, the Malays will never be able to move forward," he said in his message in conjunction with the establishment of YKSM.

The YKSM, which will be launched by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, is a motivational and strategic service group that will analyse, plan and promote strategies and actions for the development of the Malay community so that they would be competitive and respected.

Dr Mahathir said the YKSM must pool the available expertise among the Malay community to look deeply into the weaknesses and strength of the Malays so that they could become a progressive and outstanding community.

He praised the YKSM for responding to the call of the leaders and Malay community to study issues on the Malays and come up with strategic proposals to ensure the continuity and competitiveness of the community.

Abdullah, in his message, said the Malays who continued to receive the trust to lead this democratic country must emerge and remain as a competitive, highly civilised and respected race.

This was necessary so that the Malays would continue to be recognised as the prime mover in the birth and continued existence of a developed, peaceful, prosperous and united Malaysia, he said.

He said in highlighting the outcome of its research and strategies, YKSM must take into account the sharing of economic and educational opportunities with the various races in the country based on meritocracy to be fair.

Abdullah also wanted all strata of society, whether they were leaders, government officials, corporate figures or educationists to support fully the efforts of YKSM towards developing the Malay race.

In his message, Dr Denison Jayasooria, Executive Director of "Yayasan Strategik Sosial", an MIC think tank, said the Malays as the majority race in the country, should possess massive political and economic strength.

"In fact, the era of globalisation that we face now require high leadership quality and extensive economic domination so that we can face whatever challenges with confidence and integrity," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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