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Mahathir-Administration

PEACE ALONE NOT ENOUGH, EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION CRUCIAL, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Peace prevailing in the country alone is not enough to guarantee sound economic growth as efficient and transparent administration are still crucial as a driving force, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said efficiency and transparency in the country's administration were important because if the administration was not proper, development programmes cannot be implemented smoothly.

He said not many countries have these capabilities and were able to implement the country's policies efficiently.

In other countries, corruption was the culture of administration and delayed development process, he told a media conference after opening the Management Technology Centre of the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan).

Dr Mahathir said approvals to carry out economic activities like construction projects or issuance of licence were deliberately delayed to get kickbacks.

Dr Mahathir said countries with such cultures would be difficult to progress even though they were rich in natural resources and minerals like gold, oil and timber.

On the world economy, he said, 2002 was a challenging year with uncertainties and incidents that hampered the world's development to its projected target.

"Although we can say the world today is very rich to the extent that people have become trillionaires, we can still see poverty everywhere in the world, there are still those without food, proper clothing and a house.

"They are also often been attacked by diseases and have short life span. Their income is about US\$1 (RM3.80) per person and some families earn that amount for a day," he said.

Dr Mahathir said given the richness of the world today, such things should not happen.

"The rich and the strong do not care for the weak. They are engrossed with their wealth and introduce various ways like globalisation to make money.

"The world is also hit by terrorism where terror attacks can happen anywhere, not only in New York, Washington, Bali or Kenya.

"The economy cannot grow as projected and this had an impact on Malaysia," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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