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Mahathir-Merdeka

THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS, DR MAHATHIR TELLS MALAYSIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians especially the Bumiputeras could achieve success in any field provided they are willing to train themselves, be discipline, not greedy and be patient.

The Prime Minister said there is no easy way to achieve success.

"If we are willing to work hard, be patient and not looking for an easy way out, believe me, we can be successful like other people," he said in his message in conjunction with the country's 46th National Day celebrations over the radio and television tonight.

He said the success of Malaysians in overcoming challenges to sail round the world, swim across the English Channel, climb the Mount Everest and walk to the North Pole was due to thorough preparations, patience and determination to face challenges.

"Here I wish to express my disappointment because many Malays including young Malays had asked Azhar (national mariner Datuk Azhar Mansor) about the `ilmu' he used," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that what they meant was `ilmu ghaib' (mysticism) which contained certain `doa' (prayers) purportedly to guarantee success.

They wanted to know about it so that they too could overcome challenges and be as successful.

"There is no `ilmu kebal' (invincibility), no `ilmu ghaib' that can guarantee success," he said.

He said the Malays, who are all Muslims and accepting the holy Quran and hadith (traditions about the Prophet) as guidance, should know that even the Prophet Muhammad faced challenges, various kinds of tests and failures before he succeeded in his mission.

"If we truly follow the hadith and the sunnah (the way of the Prophet), then the `iman' (faith) and the diligence, bravery and discipline of the Prophet should be the example for us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that once after they were physically and spiritually ready, then they could give a try.

"Maybe we succeed. Maybe we fail. Fail, we try again. We pray, we seek help from the Almighty. And we try and try again. If we succeed, we are grateful, if we don't (succeed) we are not disappointed," he said.

He said Malaysia would like to see its citizens going into space and required suitable candidates who had the spirit, discipline and courage.

"We pray but we also make adequate preparations. Hopefully many candidates will offer themselves to become the first Malaysian astronaut, who will make Malaysia famous," he said.

In the messsge which focussed on the problems of the Bumiputeras, Malays and Islam, the Prime Minister said they had yet to achieve progress at par with other communities.

"My view is that a balance between the Bumiputeras and the non-Bumiputeras is the key to prosperity and peace in this country," he said.

He said the objective of the New Economic Policy (NEP) had not been fully achieved because the Bumiputeras were impatient, took the easy way out and greedy.

He said Bumiputeras were willing to trade off their rights to the non-Bumiputeras for quick profits.

"Not all shares were sold back but the contracts, opportunities and

anything they got, they sold back and this naturally had hampered the implementation of the NEP," he said.

The NEP sets distribution of corporate wealth of 30 per cent for Bumiputeras, 40 per cent for non-Bumiputeras and 30 per cent for foreigners.

He said 33 years after the implementation of the NEP, the Bumiputeras' share was only 19 per cent and even then it was because the Bumiputera institutions were given the Bumiputeras' share.

Dr Mahathir said there were bound to be Bumiputeras who were not happy with the failure of the NEP to achieve its objective after 46 years of Independence and would find fault, especially the fault of the government.

In this respect, he said the Bumiputeras should admit their own mistake and take steps to correct it.

The Prime Minister said that if Muslims followed the true teachings of Islam, not those twisted by certain people for their own selfish interest, they would have achieved progress and success in all fields.

In business, Muslims would be successful if they were trustworthy, patient, discipline, honest and sincere, he said.

He also said the Malays started to trade off their rights and dignity for quick profits and eventually would be trading off their religion for political victory.

"For those who traded off their religion for certain interest, they have sinned because they have brought disaster to the Muslims, causing them to be weak, oppressed and despised together with their religion," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the strategy and approach to develop the country and improve the standard of living of the people would be to be steel-willed and to formulate own approach after analysing methods and approaches used by others.

As a result, he said Malaysia succeeded in proving to others that its method was as successful or even better than others.

"The world now admits that our method can overcome our problems, can make us successful than others, compared to the methods used by other people," he said.

"We can. And we can make this country a developed country by 2020, Inshaallah," he said.

He also noted improved in the standard of living of the people and the infrastructural facilities in the country after 46 years of Independence due to the contributions of the people and the planning by the government.

Dr Mahathir also said democracy was for the prosperity of the people, not sacrificing the prosperity of the people for democracy.

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