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Mahathir-Agong

GOVT'S SUCCESS IN HANDLING PRESSURE SAVES PEOPLE FROM DISASTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government's success in handling the pressures faced by the country has saved the people from various disasters.

As such, the people must have faith in the country's ability to handle crises, he said.

"However, there are some people who don't have faith in our ability and who join foreigners in running down the country. This is most disappointing. Actually the government is willing to face whatever challenge or problem that hits the country," he said.

He was speaking at the investiture in conjunction with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail's 60th birthday celebration, here.

Dr Mahathir said that although everyone could see problematic countries being oppressed and conquered, many were still trying to split and weaken Malaysia.

"Their actions will invite disaster to this country. The government hopes that these factions realise the adverse repercussions of their actions and stop them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said, however, that the government was thankful that the majority of the people were loyal to the country.

"The cabinet ministers and the public service officers and staff are confident of the support of the people under Tuanku's patronage, the country continues to grow and develop rapidly.

"Actually the country is very fortunate because under Tuanku's patronage, it is blessed with the ability to tackle the various challenges and hurdles," he said.

Congratulating Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, he said the people appreciated their majesties' presence at official functions because it brightened up the occasion and promoted unity among the people.

The prime minister also touched on the efforts of some parties to stop water and electricity supply and garbage disposal, saying that their claims of environmental degradation were irresponsible.

"We must remember that the foreign instigators have already destroyed their environment so that their countries can develop. Now they want to maintain a low standard of living for us by curbing national development in the interest of their environment," he said.

Dr Mahathir advised the people to accept the garbage disposal technology that is suitable for a developing country like Malaysia because the government could no longer provide open areas for garbage disposal.

He said this method would pollute and poison the underground water besides providing breeding grounds for germs.

"If the people continue to reject the garbage disposal system that has been accept by the developed countries, it will be difficult to clean our environment to curb diseases," he said.

On the economy, Dr Mahathir said the government's recent pro-active move to introduce the new package to stimulate economic growth was expected to be able to cushion the impact of a weak global economy.

Besides focusing on small businesses, the government also gave attention to Malaysia's competitiveness by introducing several incentives to draw foreign and domestic investors.

Dr Mahathir said the government had also expanded economic activities

by opening new markets for Malaysia's exports, especially in South Africa, South America, the Arab countries and the West Asian region.

He also called on the private sector to use the Euro in their export trade in view that the US dollar was likely to depreciate further.

However, he reiterated that the government had no intention of reviewing the ringgit's peg against the greenback.

In conclusion, the prime minister re-affirmed the government's support and cooperation to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in line with the system of constitutional monarchy.

"On this auspicious day filled with tradition, the government, public officers and staff and the people respectfully wish Tuanku a "Happy Birthday" and pledge their undivided loyalty to Tuanku as the reigning monarch as well as the Raja Permaisuri Agong," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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