

26 JUL 2003

Mahathir-Attitude

WORK HARD AND BE TRUSTWORTHY TO BE SUCCESSFUL, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched a new dimension in the government's programme to develop the rural community by urging them to work hard and be trustworthy if they wanted to be successful.

The Prime Minister said such values if practised could greatly increase the income of the poor farmers in the rural.

He said the rural Thais proved this through the successful implementation of the one-village-one-product programme, which was also carried out in Malaysia.

"Why is it successful in Thailand but not so successful in Malaysia? Our farmers are still poor and they are still depending on assistance. Don't we have one industry which we can develop?...I believe, we have many," he said when launching the "Gerakan Daya Wawasan" (GDW) at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

The GDW is an empowerment programme developed from the original concept of "Gerakan Desa Wawasan" which was introduced by the Rural Development Ministry on July 4 1996.

Using the same acronym of GDW, the word "desa" (rural) was changed to "daya" (ability) to enhance motivation and competitiveness in efforts to eradicate poverty.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid were also present at the launching.

Dr Mahathir said the poor response from the rural community to government's efforts to increase their income was due to their attitude.

It was this which differed them from their Thai and Japanese counterparts who worked hard instead of wasting time sitting in coffee shops, he said.

He said padi planters for example could use their free time to be involved in cottage industry.

"We ask them to work hard not to turn them into slaves but for their own good," he said at the launching attended by 10,000 rural community representatives from throughout the country.

He said the benefit would be enjoyed by all although some people would think that working hard would only benefit the rich.

Dr Mahathir said that being trustworthy was also important in carrying out a given task.

"Without trust, we will not be able to do a proper job. Nothing will work in such a society," he said.

As such, he said that when the government embarked on a programme it should be well received by the people and "Gerakan Daya Wawasan is another effort to focus on ways with more benefits to us."

He said Malaysians could be successful if they upheld good values especially hard working and trustworthy.

At the same time, Dr Mahathir said they should not forget to be thankful to the government and not to be influenced by those who thought that they should only be grateful to God.

"We should thank the government for helping us and grateful to God. Is it wrong?" he said.

-- BERNAMA

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