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Keng Yaik-Dr M

KENG YAIK: DR MAHATHIR A WARRIOR OF TRUE M'SIAN RACE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was tonight described as a warrior of the true Malaysian race who focused on the importance of tolerance in the country's multiracial society.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said Dr Mahathir constantly reminded Malaysians that a multiracial and multicultural society was a strength instead of a weakness.

"In the whole of Malaysia's history, there has never been a leader who gave so much focus and who hoped for the creation of a true Malaysian race aside from Tun Dr Mahathir," he said at the Barisan Nasional (BN) dinner to honour Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali here.

Dr Lim, who is Gerakan president and also the committee chairman for the dinner, speaking on behalf of the BN component party leaders, said Vision 2020 inspired by Dr Mahathir clearly showed this through its nine strategic objectives which were shared by all.

Aside from increasing the country's development and infrastructure, Dr Mahathir also strengthened Malaysia's position in the international arena and his views were still relevant and important in shaping the country's relations in the region and globally, he said.

Also at the dinner were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his Deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and leaders of BN component parties.

-- BERNAMA

SHI SAN EMK