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Senate-Debate

HARD-WORKING DR MAHATHIR IS BEST ROLE MODEL FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is renowned for his hardwork, constructive strategies and noble vision is the best role model for civil servants, the Dewan Negara was told today.

"If we all follow the way the Prime Minister works, there will be much more progress in the country," said Senator Datuk Ghazi @ Hasbullah Ramli when taking part in the debate on the Mid-Term Review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

He also said the admission by a number of ministries of weaknesses in management should be viewed positively and it should form the basis to gain greater strength in the future.

Detailed studies should be undertaken to identify the weaknesses and ways of overcoming them, he added,

Senator Long Jidin urged the government to speed up the issuance of land titles to the Orang Asli to enable them to actively participate in economic activities.

He said several developers had been given contracts to develop Orang Asli areas and had pledged attractive packages but unfortunately did not fulfil them causing the community even greater hardship.

"The Orang Asli should not be cheated for they will never forget and never forgive and will not believe in anyone again....they are not anti-development but pledges made to them should be kept," Senator Long said.

Senator Jamilah Ibrahim proposed that special laws be enacted to check sexual harassment of women at the work place.

Senator Ramlah Abas urged the government to open more industrial zones in the rural areas for apart from providing employment it would also check migration to urban areas.

Senator Abdillah Abdul Rahim said only the poor and deserving

students should be given financial help from the National Higher Education Fund.

Senator Datuk Dr Yeow Seng Huat proposed that the government study the possibility of restructuring the public service particularly from the aspect of inter-departmental communication.

"The role of each department should be clear so that there will be no duplication of duties and responsibilities," he said.

He also urged the government not to privatise the health services as this would burden the people with high medical costs.

Senator Janggu Banyang asked the Rural Development Ministry to set up pre-school classes in Sarawak's longhouses.

"The difficulty in getting education has caused children in the interior to be increasingly left behind," he said.

He also urged the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry to identify new tourist destinations within Sarawak to further promote the industry.

Senator Kamilia Ibrahim said noble values should be given priority in the country's march towards development.

She also proposed a "universal values" subject for schools.

The Dewan will sit again tomorrow.

--BERNAMA

APG AAM