

Tun M: stop expecting subsidies and incentives

> PM urges people to think about achieving goals and working towards them

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KUALA LUMPUR: The time has come for Malaysians to get rid of the subsidy and tax incentive mentality, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"It seems that many Malaysians believe they cannot survive without some sort of subsidy."

He said people should forget about subsidies and incentives if they want to do something good for unity.

"If people want to work towards the idea of one identity, they should do it because they want to, not because the government pays for it," he added during a question-and-answer session after delivering a keynote address at the ISIS Malaysia Praxis conference themed "Malaysia Beyond 2020"

Mahathir said whenever people wanted something, they expected the government "to do something about it".

"If you really feel that this country must have one nationality, then you work at it because you are passionate about it, not because the government gives you something that is tax free, subsidies and incentives or other things.

"If the people want to have unity, they must show it and not because the government



Mahathir shaking hands with Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali yesterday.
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pays money for you to show it."

Mahathir said the country already had too many tax free incentives.

Asked about the failure of Vision 2020 and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV 2030), Mahathir said with Vision 2020, people were given opportunities but they sold or got rid of them because they wanted fast cash, which caused Vision 2020 to be unachievable.

"However, the government will make sure that opportunities under SPV 2030 will be made available only to those who can produce results."

He said youths should prepare by training and equipping themselves with the necessary

skills, especially when the government presents them with opportunities.

He noted the main weakness was implementation, which led to the country failing to achieve the desired target.

"This time, it will only be people with the right attitude who will contribute towards SPV 2030," he said.

Mahathir pointed out that SPV 2030 was not a 10-year plan, but a 30-year plan that was a continuation of Vision 2020, which began in 1991.

He said the government would find and strengthen the weak points, and overcome them.