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Says he failed in his 22 years as PM 'as Malays know no shame'

Mahathir pours out frustration

PETALING JAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (pic) says that he failed in his 22 years in power as the Malays did not feel ashamed when they failed, whether in examinations or in life.



"I spent 22 years trying to change the Malays, trying to alter the perception that they were lazy, I failed," Malaysia's longest serving Prime Minister said.

His comments came after the Education Ministry revealed that two examination papers for a national primary school test had been leaked, forcing nearly 500,000 pupils to resit the papers on September 30.

"In the past, when a Malay was sentenced to jail, the offender would hang his head in shame as it was not something to be proud of.

"But today, when a Malay is sentenced to jail, the offender will walk with his head proudly in the air, smiling as if he has achieved something."

He was speaking at the launch of the book "Wahai Melayu" by author Anas Zubedy in Petaling Jaya, Thursday.

He cited Mat Rempit or members of Malay motorcycle gangs as an example of Malays who did not feel ashamed about not working hard.

"When they fail, they say we will go and become Mat Rempit. Look at the gender breakdown in our public universities.

"Women make up 70pc of the students while men are a mere 30pc. What has happened? Is Malaysia lacking in males?"

"No, the Malay men appear to feel proud to be Mat Rempit. They do not feel ashamed when they fail in their examinations."

"I always tell non-Malays not to think that the Malays are lazy. If anyone asks me today, I would have to say Malays are lazy," Dr Mahathir said.

Another failing among the Malays, he said, was the lack of honesty and integrity, and their failure to handle money properly.

He also said many Malays have been driven out of main cities into the rural interior because their laziness made them uncompetitive.

"Like Alor Setar (Kedah), now there are no more Malays there when it was them that raised the city. This is because the Malays are poor and they have no money so they sell their land.

"So what happens is the Malays now stay outside the city," Dr Mahathir said.

He spoke of his experience running a bakery after his retirement from politics.

"I am operating a bakery and have given many opportunities to Malays to hold management positions.

"Unfortunately, time and time again, honesty and integrity appear to be lacking as there have been staff who keep stealing.

"They do not seem to understand that it is wrong to take what is not theirs, they do not think of the big picture or the long term."

He said he had hoped to change the Malay mindset by introducing the Look East Policy in 1982 because he had high regard for the attitude and determination of the Japanese, to whom failure was "unacceptable."

"Despite the massive setbacks they had suffered, the Japanese refused to yield. They were determined to rebuild their country (after World War II). Look at how Japan has risen from the ashes. Their economy is among the top five in the world. This was accomplished with blood and sweat.

"To redeem their honour, the Japanese united and strived to make their country's economy strong until it was among the top five in the world.

"The Japanese feel ashamed if they fail to accomplish what they have set out to do. They take everything seriously."

"In the old days, Japanese commit hara-kiri or seppuku (suicide) if they have failed. This is because failure is unacceptable."

Dr Mahathir also reminded Malays to repay their debts so that they would not be looked upon poorly.

"Unpaid debts not only affects us as individuals, but as a race as well. We do not want other people to look at us and assume we are bad paymasters. As Malaysia heads towards 2020, the Malays must work hard to ensure that they are not the poor people of Malaysia," Dr Mahathir said.

"If we fail, we should not blame anyone but ourselves. We have failed because we did not do what was right."

More on Page 2



Above: Harun tranplants the eggs at the hatchery.

Right: Yee poses with the huge turtle as it was about to finish laying eggs on Sept 3

A green wonder calls

Kan Yaw Chong

KOTA KINABALU: The biggest Green Turtle on record landed on Pulau Libaran's Walai Penyu Resort beach and laid a record 146 eggs in the wee hours of September 3!

The 4am landing was the 79th since the Resort's turtle hatchery was set up in November 2012 and the best.

Unlike Selingan, Bakugaan Kecil and Tulisan, the 460-hectre Libaran is not part of the Sabah Turtle Park, which makes make this more interesting.

"The sheer size of it got everybody guessing aloud whether it would break the previous record 140. My guess was it would because it was dropping three to four eggs in one go. The guess of our Swedish guest was 145 but the turtle beat us all to it at 146!" enthused Alex Yee, Managing Director of Walai Penyu Resort.

"That's a ground breaking event for us because since we started the hatchery three-and-a-half years ago, we have been getting turtle landings but not this size. So it's like this turtle saying to us - I am giving you a big surprise and thank you for helping us!" Yee quipped.

Lengthwise, the Sept. 3 landing measured 1.06m (106cm) long and width wise, 96cm while on average, mature full Green turtles measure about 1 metre in length and weigh about 200 kg full of eggs.

Meaning probably it is larger than average.

"Very interestingly, this turtle is not tagged, which suggests it is a pure native of Libaran because all other turtles landing on Selingan, Bakugaan Kecil, Gulisan, Mabul and Sipadan are tagged," Yee pointed out. Lodge Manager Karim Harimau alerted Yee at 4am about the turtle very close to the tented facility.

"It took the turtle 45 minutes to lay the clutch, then covered them, turned around and swam back to the ocean," Yee said. "Warden Harun dug the eggs out, counted them one by one before transplanting them at 5.30am.

"The beauty of it is the Wildlife Officer, Roland Nium, who first persuaded me about Libaran's turtle conservation need in 2010, was there with me to witness this full cycle he convinced me to do. This was his first trip back to Libaran since we signed a MoU with the Sabah Wildlife Department as the technical advisor in July 2013," Yee noted.

In terms of this project, the first landing actually occurred on 30 November 2011, which yielded 104 eggs but all the hatchlings died.

"We found out later the cause was the ground of our original hatchery site was too damp and learning from this lesson, we shifted the facility about 50 metres more inland," Yee told Daily Express.

Lot's more to be done in Sabah in 11th Plan: CM

KOTA KINABALU: RMK11 is an important phase of development as it is the last 5 year plan towards vision 2020.



Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman (pic) said, the Sabah Government has adopted the RMK11 framework encompassing 6 main thrusts laid out by the Federal Economic Planning Unit in preparing for the state level RMK11.

"At the state level, the preparation of the strategy papers were very inclusive whereby all public and private stakeholders in the state were consulted and were in preparation process," he said.

Musa who is also Finance Minister said this during a dialogue with a delegation led by Minister in Prime Minister Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar on the preparation planning of RMK11 at Chief Minister's Department in Wisma Innoprise, Thursday.

He said there were still many areas for improvement and development challenges faced by the state.

"A lot still needs to be done to improve connectivity, logistic and infrastructure," he said.

He said more funding was needed for good road networks, water and electricity supply as well as better broadband penetration throughout Sabah.

"The public transportation system must be stepped up to ease the traffic congestion that is a serious issue now," he said.

He said greater attention must also be given to improving education, healthcare, housing, state security, food security and sustainable management of natural resources.

Among those present were state cabinet ministers, central planning agencies and key state departments.

Situation better now: DAP

LAHAD DATU: Sabah DAP Deputy Chairman Stephen Wong Tien Fatt said there had been some significant improvements in terms of security in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (Esszone) following the recent restructuring of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) administration.

In welcoming the latest development, he said this augured well for the people and the State, particularly eastern Sabah.

"Obviously there have been improvements. There is no doubt about it, and the Government appears to have heeded the people's call, including from the opposition, for the restructuring of Esscom," he told reporters after meeting Esscom Commander Datuk Abdul Rashid Harun at the Esscom headquarters, here, Thursday.

Also present were Sri Tanjung DAP Assemblyman Chan Foong Hin and Esscom Deputy Commander Brigadier General Subari Tomo.

See Page 2, Col. 1

Reminder to police when probing sedition

Sherell Ann Jeffrey

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Jalaluddin Abdul Rahman (pic) reminded his men not to be influenced by seditious statements made by certain quarters and non-governmental organisations in the course of carrying out their duties.

He said although none was involved in such activities, unity and cooperation in the force must continue to ensure harmony and peace in the State prevail.

"I want to ensure that sentiments which can cause disorder will not be absorbed into the minds of our men and women in the force which is why we must be united to make sure the State is not put into chaos by certain groups who poison people's minds with talks of seceding Sabah from Malaysia," he said.

Jalaluddin said this during a media conference after attending his first monthly gathering as the State Police Commissioner since taking over on June 30 this year.

He said police have set up a taskforce to discuss and work with the Malaysian Multimedia and Communications Commission to come up with several plans to address the issue.

He said they received about 12 police reports from various quarters on the issue.

"There are some reports which agree, there are some which disagree and there is one report which denied intention of seceding Sabah from Malaysia, but I assure that every report lodged will be investigated thoroughly," he said.

In response to the alleged involvement of a Sabahan individual based in the United Kingdom who goes by the name Doris Jones, he said they have tried contacting her but did not receive any response.

He said investigations are also being done following several police reports lodged against a Facebook account, Semenanjung Anti Sabah Sarawak, for allegedly making seditious statements. All the investigations are under the Sedition Act and Communications and Multimedia Act. He also advised those wanting to conduct gatherings on Sept 16, to abide by the Peaceful Assembly Act and apply for a permit from the police.

See Page 2, Col.



DPM suspects sabotage in UPSR leaks

VIENTIANE: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the leaks involving this year's Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) examination papers could have been purposely done to sabotage him personally and the Education Ministry.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said he would not be making any assumptions as to who might have done it but wanted the police to get to the bottom of the matter so that the culprits could be brought to justice.

"We hope the police will take firm action and bring to book the culprits who must be severely punished," he told a press conference here today to clarify the latest developments regarding the leaks.

Muhyiddin, who is here to attend the 8th Asean Education Ministers Meeting, was clearly unhappy about the latest leaks in the UPSR Bahasa Inggeris 014/1 and 014/2 papers today following the detection of leaks in the Science 018, 028 and 038 papers yesterday.

The Examinations Syndicate has announced pupils would have to resit all the leaked papers on September 30.

Pupils will retake the UPSR English 014/1 and 014/2 papers on Sept 30, the same day as the Science paper which was postponed, due to the leak in questions.

New tactic to smuggle out fuel detected PAGE2

141 Filipinos rounded up in Menggatal operation PAGE6

Sinos should not be the victim, says PAGE9

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