

# Dr M: Beware the modern colonialists

MALACCA, Thurs. — Malaysia is still vulnerable to economic, political and cultural colonisation by foreign powers, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned today.

Malaysians must be aware of this and organise themselves to protect their independence, and thwart attempts to colonise the country again, the Prime Minister said when opening an exhibition on the Malacca Sultanate.

He said the country was even more vulnerable now than in the past, when foreign powers used armies to conquer the country.

Dr Mahathir also warned that these foreigners could select certain people, teach and groom

them to grab power so that they would set up a government reflecting the modern colonialists.

"We have seen this in Kampuchea and in Afghanistan, and also in several central American countries," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians must learn from these experiences.

He said so far the country has been lucky enough to be ruled by a Government which had strong convictions and dared to stand up against bigger powers.

"Yesterday, for example, we decided that we will not take part in the Commonwealth Games because we oppose Britain's policy on South Africa."

He said Britain was a big power but the Government remained unshaken because its policy was based on its own obligations.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian boycott of the Games was a small action but its meaning was wide.

"It showed that we are strong, we can still act on our own. We cannot and will not bow to the left or right," he added.

He said Malaysia's independence could not be questioned by anyone because it has a strong and stable government.

He said the people should ensure that a strong and stable government is returned to power with a two-third majority.

"If we have a weak government with a one or two-seat majority, people can influence and buy over the one or two persons to cross over and force the Government to collapse." He said this can be done by quarters within and outside the country.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir urged the people not to be ashamed of their weaknesses.

He said they should also learn the lessons of history, particularly the fall of the Malacca empire.

He said the empire was lost to foreigners because of disunity and also because the invaders had superior weapons and better battle strategies, despite their small numbers.