

Beware new

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PM: Malaysian identity in danger of being tainted

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight warned Malaysians against the rise of a new form of colonialism — one that threatens the national ideology, culture and economy.

He said independence was not natural to a country and colonialism had not totally ended.

"The fact is a new kind of colonialism has been created and it has regained control of independent nations," he said in his National Day message over RTM tonight.

Dr Mahathir said if the people did not value the struggle for independence, they would probably not defend it or even work towards its fulfilment.

"We will then regard independence as a normal state and something that we can have forever," he added.

Dr Mahathir said in order to defend the country's freedom and integrity, it was important that there was loyalty not only to the country, but also to oneself, the family, the home and society.

He said the world's economic powers could easily colonise the country's economy through manipulation.

These powers could cause commodity prices to fall so low that "we won't profit from our labours".

At the same time, these powers would work to ensure that the country's production cost could not be lowered, so that it would be impossible for the nation to increase its productivity, Dr Mahathir added.

"They carry out their instigations so subtly that there are those among us who want these powers to prevent the economy from recovering," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when outsiders are able to determine

our economy's progress or decline, then the country had been colonised and had lost its independence.

He said that while no one culture could escape outside influences, there were those who would submit too easily and accept elements of a foreign culture.

"In our country, there are those who choose to neglect our own values and instead imitate the behaviour of other people."

He said there was a danger of the Malaysian identity being tainted and eventually replaced by that of the colonialists.

"When our culture is tainted with the negative elements of a foreign culture and when we reject the positive values of that culture, then we are not only being colonised but we have become a race that is weak and cannot possibly defend itself from colonial influences in other areas," he said.

"One of the qualities that could

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help us defend our freedom and dignity is loyalty."

Dr Mahathir said if one was loyal to oneself, one's family and one's nation, one would be able to achieve a happy life protected from crime and vice.

"This is perhaps idealistic," he said.

"Perhaps this cannot be achieved. But a civilised and thinking human race will strive for perfection although we may not achieve it because only God Almighty is perfect.

Dr Mahathir also spoke on the Government's emphasis on unity in view of the country's multi-racial society.

He said although unity was difficult to attain, racial misunderstanding could, nevertheless, be eased if Malaysians had a "focal point" — unbiased and impartial — to which they were loyal