

Dr M: We'll stick to the market system

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THE recent turbulence in the stock markets again underlines the fact that Malaysia is linked to the economy of the world, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said Malaysia could not go it alone if it wanted rapid growth through exports, the way chosen by Japan, Korea, Taiwan and other countries.

Alternatively, it could opt out of the world free trading system and exports-led growth.

However, it would then have to say goodbye to rapid growth and accept the stagnation resulting from a purely domestic economic stimulus.

Dr Mahathir said there were enough examples of countries which chose to do this.

"And so, despite the fact that mismanagement in the major economies are likely to drag us down, we will stay within the free market system."

He hoped the country had sufficient management skills to navigate it through the rougher seas which might follow the stock market crashes and unstable exchange rates.