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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30th (Bernama) -- Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today called on the Chinese press to have some confidence in Malaysia's multi-party system which he said had served them well since the country obtained independence.

Taking them to task for their reports in favour of a two-party system during the recent general election, he said: +You are able to survive because of Malaysia's multi-party system.

+Under PAS you won't last two days. So, do not abuse your rights, especially on racial matters.+

Opening the Umno General Assembly, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said the Chinese press played with fire by campaigning for opposition parties in the recent general election.

He reminded them not to be fooled into thinking that the two-party system could give them equality and prosperity because the system, now practised by all Western countries, was encountering various problems.

+Do not think that whatever the white man in the West is doing, is good. It is past the time for us to idolise them,+ he said.

He added that the political system in western countries was not only unstable with a declining economy. He cited, as example, the case of one two-party system government in the West which was forced to shut down for a few days because its President could not endorse grants to pay salaries. -- more

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He said: +Why should we copy them blindly when their political system and philosophy is not even suited with their community?

+Can't we see that they are more prone to failure compared to us and other Eastern countries whose people are yellow-skinned, brown or black?+

He added that Malaysia, as a multi-racial country, was far more successful than Western countries in checking racial elements while, at the same time, develop the national economy.

Statistics clearly prove that national economic growth and the luxury in Malaysian towns, where most of the residents are non-Bumiputeras, were real and could be felt, he said.

+Why does the Chinese press close its eyes to reality and allow itself to be dominated by Western methods and philosophy, and fuel racism?+ he asked. -- Bernama

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