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Mahathir - democracy

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SEREMBAN, May 26, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today disclosed that certain +semi-political+ groups in Malaysia are acting as western agents and misleading Malaysians on the interpretation of democracy. (e)

Some of the minority activists were being financed by those countries and the Government of Malaysia knew who they were, he said.

+Such people will destroy democracy,+ he told reporters after speaking on his +2020 Vision+ at the Seremban Municipal Hall here.

+We do not want western style democracy... democracy with unlimited freedom... giving priority to individual freedom.. we want democracy which gives priority to society and the interests of the majority,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Nevertheless the government did not ignore the interests of the minority in Malaysia but they should not attempt to control the situation in this country, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said such groups were semi-political because they were afraid of direct involvement in politics for fear of being rejected by the majority. -- more

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Mahathir - democracy 2 Seremban

+They have become agents of western countries as though they are still under colonialism,+ he said.

+They still think in terms of a people under colonial rule and act like mynahs and whatever was said by the mentor nations, these people without thinking will repeat it. +

Asked whether the agents he mentioned were real agents or groups influenced by the West, the Prime Minister said: +There are real agents who have been indeed financed from overseas and we know who they are. +

+I don't want to mention who they are... there are some who are like parrots they just echo what their foreign mentors say. +

+If we allow them to act freely with their various suggestions without we coming up with better options, they will succeed in destroying this country, in view of this we have to expose them. + -- more

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Mahathir - democracy & Seremban

Such groups were very dangerous because they gave baseless information so that Malaysia would be discredited by foreigners and the Malaysian economy would suffer.

The groups were carrying out their activities by making use of foreign media and the influence of other countries which were trying to pressure Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

+For instance, they frequently said our country is not stable and so investors will not come here. If investors do not come, our business will not grow rapidly and in the end the country will not progress,+ he said.

These groups would fish in troubled waters if Malaysia faced problems and remained backward.

Asked whether the groups had succeeded in influencing a large number of Malaysians, the Prime Minister said: +Not many but some had been influenced.+

The Government would continue to expose the activities of these groups and provide clear information to the people on the democratic system practised in Malaysia.

The briefing was attended by government officers, political and local community leaders -- Bernama

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