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Mahathir-colonise

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PETALING JAYA, Aug 12, (Bernama) -- Big powers like the European and American countries are now using non-governmental organisations to re-colonise developing nations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said groups like the Greens had emerged in the 80s using various tactics not merely to protect the environment but also to colonise.

+They try to sabotage the stability of developing nations, including through instigation and breaking laws of target countries which are a threat to their economies,+ he said when opening the Malaysian Heads of Mission Meeting and Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) here.

The Institute aims to produce diplomats of calibre who could serve the country more effectively.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said these organisations had used groups within the country to check its economic growth, particularly exports that could compete with goods from their countries.

These non-governmental organisations were actually playing the role of protecting the developed nations' economic interests, he said. -- more

♥12/08/15-55MST

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He added: +Restrictions based on the environment, human rights, democracy and other matters previously not connected with trade are now being raised.

+At the same time, European and American nations which lost their political power following the end of their empires are trying to use economic clout to revive their colonies.+

The Prime Minister directed Malaysian missions abroad to concentrate on economic matters, especially trade, because the limited domestic market had made foreign trade necessary for rapid economic growth.

He said the representatives should identify and gather information on the market for Malaysian goods in the countries to which they were accredited and strive to increase Malaysia's export value.

He also called on Malaysian missions to intensify efforts to explain the aims of the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) so that it would receive international backing.

It looked like the well-intentioned and harmless Malaysian idea was disliked by certain powers because of their geo-political interests, he said.

He added, however, that Malaysia should not be disheartened by such unfounded opposition. -- more

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He said while formal organisations like Asean could not be arbitrarily expanded, the concept of good neighbours on an informal basis could still be worked on.

Stressing that the EAEG was aimed at defending the global free trade system, he said Malaysia proposed the EAEG because it believed the group could help neighbouring countries in East Asia to progress.

He said Malaysia and other countries should ensure that international trade was free and fair.

He added: +The task of looking after the nation's economic interests in international relations is far more difficult than seeking political allies. In international trade, friends and foes are not easily distinguished. Sometimes a political friend can be an arch economic rival.+

Dafuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysian missions should have a sound knowledge of international trade laws, multilateral agreements and the policies of certain countries.

+The world trade regime is getting more complex. Not only do we need to know the practices of our trading partners and their laws but we also have to understand their official and unofficial attitudes,+ he added.

He said trade protection through non-tariff barriers should be understood so that it could be debated at bilateral and multilateral negotiations. -- more

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Dafuk Seri Dr Mahathir said diplomacy played an important role in both defence and politics.

He said defence objectives could be fulfilled by not only joining a suitable military pact or political bloc but also through the diplomacy of non-alignment.

As such, Malaysia had become a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), he added.

Diplomacy also played an important role in preventing war from erupting between a country and its neighbours, he said. -- Bernama

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