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PM : DEMOCRACY HAS ITS LIMITATIONS

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KUALA LUMPUR. Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Democracy can only succeed if the people and government accept that there are limitations to their actions, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+To be successful, people must know that even governments cannot have unlimited ability to act in order to provide for them.

+The answer to that is not to bring down the government, but to help it achieve a democratic process by giving it sufficient time to do things,+ he told a press conference after opening the 23rd Asean Economic Ministers' Meeting here today.

Asked to elaborate on his opening address, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said in order to ensure the efficient flow of the democratic process, people must understand the workings of democracy and its limitations.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had stressed the need to understand the limits of democratic freedom.

+It's all very well to say people should be democratic. If people think democracy is going to the streets and bringing down government after government, it is not going to help anyone,+ he added.

Citing the case of the Soviet Union and some East European countries, he said the situation there had gone from bad to worse although they had accepted democracy and the free market system.

+Russia, for example, has more problems regarding food now than before,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also expressed concern over moves to link trade matters with the question of democracy.

He said countries that were interpreted as being undemocratic by certain groups might lose some privileges as a result of the labelling. --
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