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MALAYSIA NEEDS TO BE A DEVELOPED NATION TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - academic

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it has become increasingly important for Malaysia to emerge as a developed nation under the present world situation.

Strong nations were now controlling the world and even interfering in the affairs of small countries, the Prime Minister said.

+It looks like strong nations have the right to interfere in the affairs of small countries even to arrest people from the smaller nations for trial in their countries.+

+If we are a weak developing nation, always indebted to others we'll then be unable to defend our independence,+ he told reporters after holding a dialogue with academics at the Pusat Islam here.

Dr Mahathir said he had explained the importance of Malaysia becoming a developed nation to about 600 academics from universities and colleges in the country at a closed-door meeting here.

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Mahathir - academic 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said all Malaysians including academics should pool their resources to help develop the country so that it could protect its independence.

Dr Mahathir said university and college professors and lecturers involved in the moulding of the human resource should ensure total development of the human person encompassing the spirit and attitude and not just from the aspect of knowledge.

The Prime Minister was satisfied with their role so far but their efforts could be further stepped up.

Dr Mahathir unveiled Vision 2020, the aspiration to make Malaysia a developed country by that year when opening a meeting of the Malaysian Business Council on Feb 28 last year. -- Bernama

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