

CNS7174

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A THREAT TO INDEPENDENCE, SAYS PM
Mahathir - Nation

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KOTA TINGGI, July 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the nation is facing a threat to its independence because of the irresponsible action of some of its people.

The Prime Minister said some of these people went to the extent of seeking foreigners' help to put pressure on this country.

+Such a situation will lead us to a lot of pressure and this will place the nation at a disadvantage,+ he said when opening the Ladang Tunjuk Laut housing scheme, owned by the Johor State Economic Development Corporation, here, today.

Dr Mahathir said the views of foreigners would not be in line with those of Malaysians as they (foreigners) had their own interests to protect and not the interest of this nation.

He said the government would be able to defend itself if the views were only expressed by foreigners.

+But when our own people go to the foreigners and ask them to impose their views on us, we will encounter a lot of pressure and this will put the nation on the losing end,+ he said.--more

▼11/07/16-28MST

CNS7186

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Mahathir - Nation 2 Kota Tinggi

Dr Mahathir said the government was still able to defend the nation's sovereignty despite pressure by some foreign nations to impose their views on this country.

+ We believe that as a free and independent country, we have the right to manage our affairs according to the wishes of the Rakyat, without any form of interference from others,+ he said.

For example, he said, some union leaders, who went overseas, had asked foreign countries to dictate policies to this country. Such policies, if adopted, would place Malaysia on the losing end.

Dr Mahathir reminded the people to beware of such people who allowed themselves to be used by foreigners.

+Some people who failed to get the rakyat's support feel that by becoming the tools of foreign countries they would be able to seize power in the country.+--he said.--more

▼11/07/16-58MST

CNS7202

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Mahathir - Nation 3 Kota Tinggi

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would be able to maintain its position as an independent country +as we have the ability to develop the nation without outside help.+

In view of this it would be difficult for foreign powers to apply pressure on Malaysia.

+We are not heavily indebted and we do not ask for free aid from powers that might try to pressure us,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said development was the most effective and important tool in preserving the nation's independence.

+ Dont think that once we achieve independence we will continue to be so forever. There are many independent countries which are in fact under the thumbs of foreigners,+ he said.

Therefore, it was necessary for Malaysia to preserve the present position of not depending on any foreign power +as it will enable us to voice our views freely in world forums,+ he said.--more

▼11/07/17-21MST

CNS7205

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Mahathir - Nation 4 (last) Kota Tinggi

The housing scheme for the workers of Tunjuk Laut oil palm estate is a pioneer project by the Johor State Economic Corporation in its effort to provide better homes for its estate workers.

The corporation has 35 oil palm and rubber estates.--Bernama

▼11/07/17-26MST