

Extreme

freedom

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bad: Dr M

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that Western-style democracy was too extreme and therefore unsuitable to Malaysia.

He spoke of how discrimination was imposed on immigrants and those who professed different religious beliefs.

"They are controlled in the ghettos, oppressed, assaulted and even murdered, deprived of their human and legal rights, unable to get media coverage and constantly placed under White rule," he said when opening Gerakan's 22nd delegates conference at the Federal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

Also present were Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and other senior leaders of Barisan Nasional

component parties.

"We accept democracy but we must not be too extreme as this would spoil us. Unlimited freedom is dangerous," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said Western countries criticised other countries as "undemocratic but were themselves undemocratic", judging from their discriminatory practices.

He cited Serbians' ethnic cleansing of Bosnians which was condoned by the West as "worse than the holocaust".

"And these are the people who say we are not democratic," he added.

The Prime Minister said the people should not be easily influenced by Western style extreme democracy.

"We must be democratic but should not be the slave of democracy. Democracy is important in the par-

ty can cause damage to our party and nation, we must choose the party and nation.

"Democracy has no meaning without party and nation."

Dr Mahathir reminded the Western countries that fanaticism in any field, including democracy, was not beneficial.

He said Malaysia did not need "unlimited freedom" which was dangerous.

He warned of riots if unlimited freedom like demonstrations to instigate the races, incessant strikes and other matters perceived as "democratic rights" were

allowed.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the extreme Western-style democracy had led to moral decay, homosexuality, "single parents" and a deteriorating economy.

Democracy, he added, was like a sharp-edged knife which could be used for both good and bad things.

"As such, we must be careful when practising democracy, whether in the party or at national level."

After he ended his speech, Dr Mahathir received a Declaration of Environment from Gerakan Youth leader Ng Kit Leong.