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Mahathir-message

THE WEST IS STILL BENT ON COLONISATION, SAYS MAHATHIR

(Embargo: For release after 8.30pm, March 13)

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 ⁶⁴ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad ^C tonight reminded the people to be wary of the desire of the West to continue to colonise even though direct colonisation had long ended.

"The desire (to colonise) still remains with the colonialists. If there is an opportunity, they will colonise again," the prime minister said in his message over radio and television in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri tomorrow.

He listed the colonisation tactics of the West, such as intimidation by their trade union leaders and wild accusations by their media.

Dr Mahathir said what he had outlined of the West's evil intentions were derived after a comprehensive study.

"The challenge we are faced with is real," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-message 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargoed)

He also said that the people should strive hard to develop the country as quickly as possible.

"We seek success to protect our dignity. We do not wish to be looked down upon by anyone.

"We do not seek anything extraordinary. We only want to stand tall with the others," he said.

The prime minister said that another development which the people should take note of was the control of the international media by a group of Western capitalists.

He said that with such control by certain people from the West, the thinking, attitude and culture of the people could be influenced by them.

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Dr Mahathir said the West always smeared the image of the Malaysian government because it wanted to undermine the political stability which is the strength of Malaysia.

"If they are able to reduce the people's confidence in the government leadership, then the integrity and effectiveness of the government will be adversely affected," he said.

He drew attention to the current issue where the British media tried to smear the image of Malaysian leaders by accusing them of being corrupt, and which Malaysia has totally denied.

"If the accusation is not denied, Malaysians and even others will believe the allegations are true. Then, the people's confidence in the government will wane. More than that, Malaysia's strong voice in the international arena will be muffled," he said.

If the people no longer had confidence in the country's leadership, support for the government would weaken and this would ultimately hamper national development and political stability, he said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that apart from instigating workers and managers to demand higher wages, the West also attempted to impose various conditions on human rights and conservation of the environment as a means of raising the cost of production and jeopardising the national economy.

The West was prepared to come out in defence of the enemies of the government, and even reported that the government suppressed Islamic political parties in Malaysia even though it actually did not sympathise with the struggle of Islamic extremists.

"Instead, when an Islamic political party in an Islamic country wins an election, it does not at all criticise the act of not honouring the choice of the people," he said.

He also said that it was not necessary for workers to resort to industrial action to demand higher wages.

He said the government sympathised with workers but the sympathy must be well reciprocated, and added that workers would be paid higher salaries when the country continued to progress. -- Bernama

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