

West wants to colonise, warns Dr M

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By LEE KAR YEAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has warned the people of Western countries' desire to colonise although direct colonisation had ended.

In his Hari Raya message over RTM last night, the Prime Minister said the intention (to colonise) still remained with the colonialists.

"And they will colonise again if given the opportunity," he said, adding that the colonisation methods included instigation by their trade union leaders and wild accusations by their media.

Dr Mahathir said his description of the West's evil motives was made based on feedback and thorough investigations.

He said the people would lose faith in the Government if it did not respond to wild accusations hurled against its leaders.

Malaysians, and even

foreigners, would be led to believe in the accusations if they were left unchallenged, he said.

"If the rakyat no longer believe in their leaders, their support for the Government will be weakened."

"Consequently, the country's development will be affected and its political stability disrupted, hindering the progress of the country," he said.

He said developed countries were, to a certain extent, jealous of Malaysia's achievements as a rapidly progressing country.

"They are worried we will also become an industrialised nation like several others in the East. Thus, they are finding ways and making attempts to obstruct our development."

He also said the country enjoyed political stability and had a credible Government which the West had tried to destabilise.

"If they succeed in reducing the people's trust in government leaders, then the credibility and effectiveness of the Government will be jeopardised."

"That is why they often bad-mouth the Malaysian Government and recently, they even tried to destroy the image of Malaysian leaders by alleging that they were involved in bribery."

He warned the people against the monopoly and influence of a small group of Western capitalists on the international media.

The mass media, especially television, has a particularly strong impact on the people and the control of such media by certain people would affect the thinking, attitude and culture of the people in the East.

He said Malaysia was not asking for anything extraordinary but to be on par with other countries and it did not wish to be looked down by anyone.

On the workers, he said the country needed to maintain a low cost of living to remain competitive and attractive to investors and for the same reason, the workers' wages had to be kept low.

"If the developed countries succeeded in pushing the workers to demand for higher pay and organise strikes, then our advantage would also be gone," he said.

While the Government was sympathetic to the workers, they were assured of getting more wages when the productivity of the nation increased, he said.

"Even today's wages have increased because there are more job opportunities than the number of workers. There is no need for industrial action."

"On the contrary, irresponsible industrial action would affect investments, reduce job opportunities, increase production costs and impede development," he said.