

# Dr M: Be wary of Western media's influence

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people should be wary of developments where the control and influence of the international media is in the hands of a small group of Western capitalists.

The Prime Minister said if the people are not careful, they could be influenced by these people and this could destroy the country.

Dr Mahathir said: "The rakyat should pay serious attention to this development. The media, especially television, has a very strong and powerful influence.

"The Western individuals controlling the media could also influence our thoughts, attitude and culture. If we are not careful, we too can be influenced to destroy ourselves."

The Prime Minister said this in his Hari Raya Puasa message over Radio and Television Malaysia tonight.

Dr Mahathir said he made this observation based on information and after making close studies. He said the challenge facing the country was real. He added that direct colonisation may have ended but the attitude and intentions of the colonial masters were still evident.

"If they have a chance, they would do it again," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia was not making any extraordinary demands. It only wants to be on par with other nations, he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "We need to be very careful in this. We must work hard to develop our country as soon as possible. We want to develop our country so that we can preserve and protect our dignity. We don't want to be looked down upon by anyone."

The Prime Minister said the people had a lot to be thankful for. Dr Mahathir said he kept repeating this fact because there were people who always complained about petty problems while forgetting the peace, prosperity and stability that they enjoyed.

He said that some of the success came from the country's system of administration which was based on parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy.

"Even though democracy will give birth to a Government elected by the people, it does not necessarily mean that that Government can administer well and successfully.

"Many Governments elected by the people, including those in developed countries, have failed to govern efficiently and effectively. That is why many democratic nations suffer economically, and are not stable," he said.

He added that the coun-  
 PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 2, COL 6 ✓

## PM: West fears we can be as successful as some countries in East

FROM PAGE ONE

try's success had led others in the developed West to be envious.

He said: "They fear that we can be as successful as some countries in the East. That is why they will seek ways and means to impede us from progressing further.

"Knowing that one of the reasons for our success was our high productivity, they try to incite our workers to demand higher wages and other benefits. They know that this will increase our costs.

"If these demands are not met, they will incite our workers to take industrial action. They know that if our production costs increase, we can no longer compete with them."

The Prime Minister said that as a developing country, Malaysia had no capital, technology, big internal market or high management expertise. He said the country only had a relatively low cost of living which had enabled the country to provide competitive wages.

He said: "If the developed countries can incite our workers to demand very

high wages through industrial actions, then we will lose our only advantage, that is, our competitive edge.

"That is why they have been trying to pressure us into liberalising further our labour policies so that our trade unions can act as militantly as theirs. The Government sympathises with workers, but this sympathy needs to be treated carefully.

"Workers will enjoy better wages when the country's economy keeps expanding. Today's wages are better than before, and there is no need for any form of industrial action.

"Irresponsible industrial action will adversely affect investments, reduce employment opportunities, increase production costs, and impede development. In the end, many will lose their jobs and the nation will become poor."

The Prime Minister said the people must protect its political stability, adding that attempts to undermine this had not abated. Attacks on the credibility of the country's leaders were con-

tinuing.

If these attacks are not stopped, Malaysians and everyone else may believe that the allegations are true. This could erode the people's confidence in the leaders and Malaysia's international voice would become weak.

If the people no longer believe in their leaders, their support of the Government also weakens. "When this happens, not only will the country's development be adversely affected, our political stability too will be harmed."

In the spirit of Hari Raya, the Prime Minister told Muslims to demonstrate their generous nature by having open houses and inviting their friends and neighbours to join in the celebrations.

He said Muslims in Malaysia had a lot to be thankful for considering that they had no major obstacles in fulfilling their religious obligations.

"We are spared the cruelty and chaos found in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Somalia," Dr Mahathir said.