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Mahathir-West
PM TELLS WEST TO MIND OWN BUSINESS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the West for continuously telling Malaysia how the country should be run.

"Who are they to determine how our people should live? This is our country, so we are the one to decide," he told reporters after launching the World Consumers Day 1996 at Pusat Islam here.

Dr Mahathir said: "I can't understand this mentality. We have to tell them to stop telling us what to do."

He was commenting on a European business watchdog for its assessment of global corruption.

He described Malaysians who believed such groups as people who still have "strong" colonial mentality.

Dr Mahathir also dismissed a corruption index released by a German-based group, Transparency International, which ranked Malaysia the 26th most corrupt country out of 50 states surveyed.

He said that was why he had asked that an organisation called Europe Watch be set up in Malaysia to monitor racial discrimination and corruption in Europe which was very high there.

Dr Mahathir said the problem with many Malaysians was that they behaved as if they were still under colonial rule. "They will still say 'yes' even after being slapped."

"I can't understand this mentality. We have to tell them to stop saying that we are the only ones who are bad whereas they are worse than us," he said.

He said the worst record of human rights violation in one century was to be found in Europe today, but "our national papers did not comment as they still have that colonial mentality, thinking that what the white people do should be right."

He said the West always interfered in the country's internal affairs such as the Bakun issue by saying that the Penans preferred their way of life.

Such provocations would mean that the Penans did not want progress and forever would stay in their longhouses without any facilities like electricity, water and other utilities, he added. -- BERNAMA

ZAB YBY