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Dr Mahathir shares his views on what new millennium holds

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday gazed into the future and shared his predictions of what it is going to be like in the next millennium.

"It is a mere guess, of course, but I do expect some parts of it will come true," he said in his keynote address on "Malaysia in the Next Millennium: Challenges for The New Generation" at a Universiti Malaya Alumni gathering in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said there is no doubt that much will change in the affairs of the world, where a global village will emerge in which everyone will know everyone else.

The global village is the result of the speed of communications, a shorter travelling time from one area to another destination in another part of the world.

"Teleconferencing makes it seem that distance does not exist at all. The Internet enables everyone not just to receive information instantly, but all kinds of commerce and trade can be instantaneous."

Dr Mahathir said ease of movement of people will result in massive migration whereby people move to where they expect to an improved life with better jobs and better social amenities.

Therefore, single ethnic countries will give way to multi-racial countries everywhere.

"No nation will be able to stop the inflow of foreign people without being accused of injustice and inhuman treatment. The world will become truly borderless and the countries will melt into one global entity," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that the countries of Europe and North America, the most prosperous in the world, will cease to be European in the sense of being white or Caucasian.

Indians, Africans and Chinese will flow into European countries so that before even one century passes, Europe will no longer be identified with white people.

"Black and yellow and brown people will all be Europeans. Already European athletes are mostly black."

Dr Mahathir said prosperity will not be confined to the indigenous Europeans, adding that Asians will probably dominate the business activities of Europe.

The scenes of ethnic repression in North America will be repeated in Europe as the large white authorities try to impose their standards and rules on the new Europeans.

"But the whites will have to give in eventually until treatment of all Europeans of whatever colour is the same. There is of course the possibility later on in the millennium when the non-white Europeans will dominate and will try to impose their will on the rest."

Dr Mahathir said there will also be more marriages between whites and non-whites which, ultimately, by the end of the millennium or even earlier, will mean that it is impossible to find anyone of pure white stock in Europe.

The Prime Minister also foresees the United Nations (UN) having difficulties in carrying out its entrusted role in the next millennium.

"How the UN will function in a world without borders is anyone's guess. But it is certainly not going to be more effective than it is now. It will

continue to be an instrument of the big powers," he added.

Dr Mahathir said although the UN was set up to bring conflicts to the negotiation tables rather than the battlefields, it has been taken over by the big powers and made into an instrument of their policy.

"There is now no effective UN in so far as maintenance of peace and the problem of equality and justice between nations is concerned."

The Prime Minister said what will happen to Malaysia in the next millennium will be very much influenced by what happens to the rest of the world.

"What happens to the world will affect and influence Malaysia's internal and external affairs. Malaysia is today much more integrated with the rest of the world than ever before," he added.

Dr Mahathir said therefore the challenge for the new generation of the country is to continue to maintain political stability and economic development.

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