

Mahathir: West should learn from us

IT is time for the West to learn from Malaysians as the nation has achieved more on its own than when it was colonised, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

In his first harsh criticism of US vice-president Al Gore, the Umno president said Malaysia did not seek nor need the advice of foreigners.

"We should condemn them because they will destroy us. Al Gore and (international financier George) Soros and the others are *biadap* (ill-mannered), and we should call them *biadap*," he said in his winding-up speech

at the end of the Umno special assembly.

"We know better than them on how to run our country. *Siv / 12 / 1998*

"During the 400 years when we were colonised, Malaysia's development was limited. But after only 40 years of independence, our development is hundreds of times more than theirs.

"Hence, they should learn from us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said while Malaysia had achieved a peaceful and stable multi-racial and multireligious society, the worst atrocities were being committed in Kosovo.

"They are so articulate

when it comes to talking about democracy, and they think they can teach us, but they can't even solve their own problems or problems in neighbouring countries," he said.

"Don't try and teach us. And God willing, we will not bow to them," he added.

Dr Mahathir accused foreign powers of attempting to destabilise the elected Government even though this went against the principles of democracy.

"Even though it has been 42 years since we were freed from colonisation, these foreign powers still have the intention to

colonise us," he said. 13

Dr Mahathir said it was clear that the independence and freedom Malaysia had gained were still under threat.

"Unfortunately, the Malays are still asleep and do not realise the danger we face. And so their focus is on grabbing positions instead of saving the country," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said Umno members must cultivate a culture of rejecting negative values and corrupt practices because laws and regulations alone were not enough to curb such activities.