

PM: Don't **take** things for granted

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded Malaysians last night "not to take things for granted" although the country's economy had not plunged into a deep crisis as in many other countries.

The Prime Minister said the situation here had not deteriorated to the extent that people had to scavenge for food or "rebus kucing" (cook cats) for their next meal.

"We should be grateful that the situation here is not as bad as in many other countries where there is a shortage of food, medicine and milk.

"Therefore, we should be careful and avoid a similar situation from happening here," he said at the Sultan Abdul Hamid's Old Collegian Association (Sahoca) dinner.

Dr Mahathir said the Government could still manage its administration

and keep things under control although the country had a debt of RM16bil.

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He said that there were times when he had difficulty explaining to visitors the economic slowdown in the country because to them it did not look as if the situation had gone beyond control,

"I am confident that we can overcome the present problem soon with the co-operation of the people.

"We need a stable and peaceful situation to turn the economy around. If people demonstrate and resort to mob rule, then it will be difficult," he added.

The Prime Minister said in countries where people take to the streets and hold violent demonstrations because their salary had been reduced, it had only further aggravated the situation.
