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Mahathir-Ideology

DON'T RESTRICT YOURSELF TO CERTAIN IDEOLOGIES, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- A country should not fanatically follow only certain ideologies as it may disrupt any attempt to ensure a continued equal share of wealth, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

Speaking as a panelist at the "Virtual Commonwealth" dialogue carried live via video conferencing worldwide, the Prime Minister said the free capital system, for example, allowed the free flow of funds from rich to poor countries and eventually "the poor have been made rich for a while".

But when the regional economy went into trouble, the rich countries pulled out all their funds sending the poor countries back to square one, he said.

"Finally, we can see now market forces have made disruptions and it already is not a perfect way of creating an ideal and well-endowed society," he said.

Therefore, said Dr Mahathir, each of the poor countries must take action by itself to protect and uphold its dignity socially and economically.

"It is like a pendulum which swings right and left, we have to bring it back to the middle," he added.

Echoing the Prime Minister was Dr Chandra Muzaffar, president of the International Movement for a Just World.

He said he did not think that the global ideology, constantly described as "casino capitalism", could reduce local poverty.

Countries should look into the needs of new mechanisms which address the problem of local poverty, he said.

Dr Chandra said governments, in the context of the existing global systems, would no longer be able to overcome the problem of local poverty, even within the old boundaries.

"You have the situation in South East Asia. For instance, Indonesia, which according to a World Bank report had reduced poverty from 60 percent to about 15 percent over a period of two-and-a-half decade.

"Today, you find that absolute poverty has become a major problem in Indonesia. Unless you are able to change some of these global volatile forces, there's no way nation's state be able to overcome the problem of poverty," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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