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Mahathir-Pressure

DON'T USE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN FOR POLITICAL MILEAGE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KANGAR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today political parties in the country should not use the current economic downturn for political mileage.

The prime minister said that such an act would tantamount to abetting the foreign enemy to weaken the nation as the country's economic woes were caused by foreigners.

Speaking at a meet-the people session at Stadium Utama, here, he said some parties might feel that the current economic downturn was an opportunity to make political gains.

"It would be very unfortunate if the country's problem is used to fish for votes. I hope this does not happen anywhere," he said.

He hoped that Malaysians would counter the attacks on the economy because the economic downturn had dire consequences.

He said colonialism would return if foreigners, super powers and foreign currency speculators were allowed to dictate the fate of the people and the policies of a nation.

Dr Mahathir again reminded the people that a free market system could bring about good "but if abused can cause us to suffer.

"That is why we must have curbs on free markets."

He said the free market system advocated by certain countries now had clearly caused various economic problems.

The prime minister hoped that the people would manage their finances wisely to support the government's efforts to revive the country's economy.

-- BERNAMA

AD JM JK