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`Malays indifferent to recolonisation bid'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in these challenging times when attempts were being made to recolonise the country, the Malays remained indifferent as they did 400 years ago without realising the dangers.

For this reason, they were not paying attention to efforts to save the country but instead were focusing on bids for places and positions.

He said such indifference could lead to splits, especially as the foreign elements were good at exploiting weaknesses.

"Today, it is clear how they tried to cause splits among us by choosing those they feel are more qualified than the existing ones. So that they can recolonise us," he said in his winding-up speech at the end of Umno's extraordinary general meeting.

The Prime Minister said while this was becoming increasingly clear, "we still do not acknowledge that we face the danger of losing our independence."

Despite Malaysia's 42 years of independence, the assumption that the country would continue to be a free nation might be inaccurate, he said.

He added that one means of domination was to impoverish the people. "That is what was done by them when they attacked the currency ... we nearly had to bow to them as each time we wanted to do something they attacked the currency and stock exchange," he said.

On the constitutional amendments, he said the constitution alone did not guarantee smooth running of the party.

He said in this context, it was important to have the Umno culture, one which rejected detrimental practices like money politics.

"I am not convinced that someone who receives RM1 million will do what is good for Umno," he said, citing an example.

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