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`Situation in Kosovo could deteriorate'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Kosovo situation could deteriorate further, ending up as a colossal catastrophe engulfing the whole of the Balkans, if the Serbian leadership continues to be aggressive and belligerent, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"As a democratic, multi-ethnic nation committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, Malaysia is also of the view that dialogue and negotiations are the most effective channels for defusing ethnic tensions.

"It would be a shame if the world allowed the situation in Kosovo to deteriorate further till it becomes another Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said in a message in the Consultation on Kosovo programme booklet.

The Consultation on Kosovo forum, jointly organised by the International Movement for a Just World and the Institute for Policy Research, was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

Dr Mahathir is in Britain attending the second Asean Europe Meeting, beginning today.

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