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Dr M: Don't fall for trap to create disunity

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Malaysians not to be influenced by media propaganda by western capitalists to manipulate their minds to create disunity and weaken the country.

The Prime Minister said the West had coined many words such as globalisation, deregulation and crony capitalism and these were often used by the Malaysian media.

"In the past we have not heard of crony capitalism. They created this word and we echoed it. To them, all those who are rich are Government cronies although they are not.

"They also said we are not transparent and talk about globalisation which allows them to go wherever they want to do business. They say they have the expertise and the capital they brought in will bring happiness to the people.

"Our people accept them and we also talk about globalisation, deregulation, liberalisation, borderless world, crony capitalism, corruption and many more.

"It sounds nice and they (western capitalists) like it when they know that the poison they have injected is working and they have succeeded in controlling the minds," he said.

He was speaking to political leaders and heads of government departments during a luncheon here. Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and State executive councillors.

Dr Mahathir said the capitalists were now showing their might following the fall of communism and socialism.

He said these capitalists introduced a theory where business and industries should be free of Government interference and that there must be deregulation and liberalisation.

He added that Governments which obstructed people with capital from carrying out activities which profited them were labelled as undemocratic.

However, he said, the capitalists felt that they should not just confine themselves to their own countries, thus they wanted to control the world and making the world "a fruit garden where they can pick the fruits anytime".

"However, there are laws which determine a nation's border and such laws is the right of the nation to protect its interests.

"That is why they created globalisation and borderless world. Therefore, we must not think that we should have a border or boundary. We are a world society and anyone can come into our country to do business and we must not obstruct them.

"At the same time, they say their countries are also open for us to invest in. But how are we going to do business. We don't know anything. We don't have the ability and the capital.

"If we open our borders, they are the ones who will come and not us going to their countries. They wanted us to remove all the obstacles so that their banks and industries can grow and take over our companies, thus controlling our economy.

"However, those who normally have control on the economy will want to control politics as well so that they can determine who leads a nation so that they can get what they want."

He added that history showed that in South America, the Government of a few small countries depended solely on banana plantation opened by

investors.

"It is similar here. If we do not have our own companies, they will have control over our economy and politics.

"This is their ambition. But they are clever. They will deny any such plans. However, we can observe that there are nations which have to change their leaders due to pressures from them.

"These are the market forces which is a new name for capitalism. They want to control the world," he added.

Dr Mahathir said no one could deny that the people of various races had benefited from Government programmes, including the New Economic Policy.

He added that the Government provided scholarships, built schools in rural areas, provided medical facilities and sent students abroad so that when they return they could be involved in business.

"Anyone who says that they have not benefited, they are ungrateful," he added.

However, he made it clear that not everyone received the same benefit. Those who worked hard and were efficient, he said, would get more and those not efficient would get less.

"However, there are those who alleged that the administration is inefficient and oppresses the people. These are the people who allow themselves to be used by outsiders."

He said outsiders were not keen in helping the nation, but more interested in controlling the country by bringing down the value of the ringgit.

In so doing, he said, they wanted to colonise the country.

He said Malaysia succeeded in defending itself because, despite the economic problem, the people were united and responsible.

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