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Mahathir-Colonisation

DEFEND MALAYSIA FROM BEING RECOLONISED, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the youth of the country to defend Malaysia's independence from threats of elements trying to recolonise the nation.

He said that at present the minds of some of the people in the country have begun to be influenced by the negative aspects of Western culture like swearing.

"If we are not careful, not remorseful and fail to learn from history, believe me, we will be recolonised," he said in his address at the National Youth Day assembly at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil, here.

"Today, they are trying to recolonise our country...when they try to determine the country's economic structure, when they try to determine our leaders, when they try to determine our government. Then, we will no longer be free and independent," he said.

The prime minister said that the people in the country should preserve the noble cultural values of the East instead of adopting the Western cultural aspects inclined towards only having a good time without taking into account the plight of the poor.

Dr Mahathir, who related his experience in living under the administration of four foreign nations, said that the present young generation should be reminded of the sufferings and humiliation of life under colonial rule.

He also said that the young generation should not allow themselves to be used and instigated by others because Malaysia was a democratic country which granted its people the right to determine their own leaders.

Now, he said, there were foreigners instead of the country's citizens and leaders of foreign nations trying to determine who should be made a leader and who should be toppled.

"What is their right to determine who should be the government in Malaysia...they have the audacity to ask the people of Malaysia to topple the government chosen by the people of Malaysia themselves.

"This is not the right of foreign powers, not the right of foreign leaders. Even though their countries are the world's powerful, in Malaysia it is the right of the people of Malaysia," he said.

The prime minister said that the people in the country had been given the right to choose the government they want through proper elections conducted according to Malaysian laws and not the laws of other countries or through riotings.

Malaysians could be friends with foreigners but they (the foreigners) should not regard that through it they have the right to tell the people in the country to determine who they should choose and who they should not.

He said that foreigners had caused a nation's leader to be toppled merely by devaluing its currency and several countries have had to seek assistance from them and have conditions imposed on them.

"I'm concerned...my generation will fade away because we are old, obsolete and should be replaced but let not the old generation be replaced by a new generation who can only follow the instructions of foreigners," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia needs a leader who is far-sighted and with a vision for the future and not a leader who is easily frustrated and only capable of parroting others.

The prime minister said that the young generation should not allow

themselves to be influenced by instigations of outsiders and realise that Malaysia achieved success because "we have determined our fate our own way".

Citing the economic crisis, he said that Malaysia did not seek the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but implement its own measures never initiated by other nations in the world.

Even though the measures were condemned, it is obvious that such measures had been positive in reviving the economy, he said.

"Choosing our own way can be frightening...it is much easier for us to join the crowd, stick with the others, but being with others and not thinking for ourselves, we are only in a herd and we will lose our independence.

"What is the point of having independence if we cannot act according to our own wishes," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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