

21 NOV 1999

MALAYSIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN JEOPARDY WITH A WEAK GOVT- DR M

ALOR SETAR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia needs a strong government which will not bow to foreign powers and so uphold its independence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

There would be no more independence if the people made the wrong choice and elected a government which was unable to defend the country and just accepted the directives of foreign powers, he said.

The people would be humiliated and oppressed if the country had no more independence, he told soldiers at the Tok Jalai Military Camp.

Dr Mahathir also said the government was studying claims for the increase in 44 types of allowances for the military.

The Prime Minister also thanked military personnel and their families for their sacrifices in the course of upholding the country's independence.

-- BERNAMA

JM MFJ AAM