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Mahathir-Meritocracy

M'SIA FORCED TO ADOPT MERITOCRACY IF RECOLONISED, SAYS PM

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the people that Malaysia will be forced to adopt a system of meritocracy as advocated by the West if they allow foreign powers to recolonise the country.

He said that even though the country had attained independence, this independence may not be enjoyed forever because the colonialists could recolonise the nation directly or indirectly.

"And attempts (to recolonise) have been made even if they denied them and were angered when we accuse them of trying to recolonise (us). But it is clear that attempts have been made," he said at a gathering and dialogue with state and federal government officers at Wisma Darul Iman, here.

Dr Mahathir said that if the country was incapable of defending its independence, it would eventually have to bow to the pressures of foreign powers especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was controlled by a super power.

The prime minister said that if the country were to give in to the IMF, it would stop the social engineering process implemented by the government to bridge the gap among the races through the New Economic Policy (NEP) and order that subsidy given to the people be terminated.

Dr Mahathir said that the foreign power would force Malaysia to adopt a system of meritocracy which would lead to those who were clever, skilful and rich to become cleverer, more skilful and richer while the poor would continue to remain poor.

"This is the policy held sacred by other countries," he said, but stated that in Malaysia, the government felt that the rich and the skilful could continue to prosper and progress and at the same time, the poor must be provided assistance.

That was why, he said, the Bumiputeras in the country were provided assistance in the fields of business and education with many of them now holding important and high positions like professors and vice chancellors.

He said that if the policy of meritocracy was implemented, where the Bumiputeras had to sit the same tests as the other races for certain posts, could this have been achieved.

"If it is implemented, many (Bumiputeras) will lose their jobs, their children will not be able to go to universities and will not be able to become professors and lecturers," he said.

He said that this had not happened because the government, through the NEP, had provided opportunities to the Malays to work and do business.

"If it is abolished, I am sure that the Malays and the Bumiputeras will become manual workers and will not be able to hold (high) positions they are holding today," he said.

Dr Mahathir however said that there were many among those who have succeeded were now condemning the government and had forgotten the fact that without the government, they would not be able to work and hold high positions.

They claimed that the existing government was incapable and they were taught by certain quarters not to be grateful.

"I am very disappointed over such incitement. Let us not think that we have reached this level because of our own ability.

"They may be capable but if we were to conduct tests for high positions in the universities, I am sure not many will get the posts. As such, do not

be easily influenced by people who are only seeking places in the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that many people aspire to become ministers and the prime minister, but such positions did not provide glamour but much work to develop the country, protect the race and defend the nation.

"Not just to be called the Most Honourable, the Right Honourable...riding in the Mercedes and living in a palace, that's not it. It is to defend the country so that attempts to recolonise the country can be thwarted," he said.

Earlier, he said that abuse of the people's power could destroy them and the nation and as such, power should be used with caution.

He said that in accordance with democratic practices, the people were given the power to determine the government but if they were not cautious, it would be detrimental to them and the nation.

He reminded the people that certain quarters would continue to incite them into abusing the power which they held.

"Power should be used with caution or else it can destroy us. It can also be detrimental to us and our country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that abuse of power by the people included allowing themselves to be influenced by promises into making decisions which would eventually destroy themselves.

He also called on the people to compare the facilities and benefits enjoyed after 42 years of independence and during the time the country was colonised.

The prime minister said that the people had enjoyed progress because they had chosen a responsible government whereas such facilities were not found in other countries.

-- BERNAMA

SN KHY RM