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Mahathir-Opposition

OPPOSITION PARTIES UNDER FOREIGN CONTROL - MAHATHIR

SEREMBAN, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said opposition parties in the country have come under the influence of foreigners and do not appear to belong to Malaysians any more.

He said the supporters of these parties should realise that they had been made use of by foreigners to try to topple the present government.

"They (foreigners) want the government to fall not because they love the opposition parties but because they are not happy with the present Malaysian government which is not willing to bow to them," he said.

He said this when addressing a mammoth dinner organised by the Negeri Sembilan Barisan Nasional (BN) Negeri Sembilan at the Padang Perbandaran here tonight.

It was attended by more than 25,000 BN supporters including the coalition's secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, who is also Umno secretary-general.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners were now praising opposition parties, promoting opposition candidates and displaying the candidates' names and pictures in the hope that Malaysians would accept those people.

The opposition parties, on their part, were willing to sell themselves to the foreigners and frequently seek their assistance and get them to interfere in the country's internal affairs, he claimed.

The prime minister said Malaysians should realise that the colonial powers were still interested to colonise Malaysia and grab the country's wealth for themselves.

"There's a strong basis to what I'm saying because we know that they often interfere in the political affairs of the countries under their influence to gain benefit," he said.

The government, he said, did not know if currency traders had a close relationship with the media and big businesses from the developed countries. But when the currency traders attack certain countries and cause these countries to become poor, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) immediately offers to help the countries.

"The IMF assistance, however, comes with conditions. And the conditions are that our country's economy opens up as much as possible to businessmen and banks from advanced countries," he said.

According to Dr Mahathir, the foreign companies and banks would want to have 100 per cent control over all companies in the country, and when they had taken control of the economy they would ensure that the country's economic policies brought huge benefits for them.

"They won't stop at influencing policies and controlling the economy but will also strive to influence our country's politics to ensure that our democratic country selects a leader nominated by them," he claimed.

The foreigners would also determine Malaysia's government and its policies, and at this stage the country would already have been recolonised, said the prime minister.

Denying that he was trying to frighten the people, Dr Mahathir said: "That is the truth and that is the fact, they want to colonise us again."

He said Malaysia rejected the IMF aid offer because it did not want the country to come under the agency's control.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's own measures to revive the economy had been a success. As a result of the measures, the country is now expected to register a one per cent economic growth this year.

And if the people want to see further economic recovery, they must return the BN to power in the coming general election. They should not "change horse in mid-stream" as that was dangerous, said the prime minister.

"They (opposition parties) are not an alternative choice for Malaysians. The people must continue to support the BN in developing the country so that we become as developed as the developed countries in America, Europe and Japan," he added.

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