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Mahathir-Domination

THE WEST STILL MAKING ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE COUNTRY, SAYS MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, March 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysians should be wary of attempts by the West to dominate the country.

"We should not think that after having granted us independence whatever intention by them to dominate and exploit us has ended," he said.

They had granted independence to the country for their own interest and not in the interest of the people because they wanted to prevent the communist bloc from spreading its influence in the country, he said at a gathering of government officers, imams and penghulus in the state at Wisma Darul Aman, here.

Dr Mahathir is on a two-day visit to the state. He is on the first leg of a series of visits to the various states to explain to the people the political and economic situation in the country.

"They still want to dominate us and they are uneasy over our independence," he said.

"We must bear in mind that we gained independence because the colonialists did not use weapons and their power, to maintain colonial rule at that time. We only signed for our independence on a piece of paper without having to wage an all-out war," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that due to the fall of the communist bloc, there was now no reason for the Western powers to allow countries that had been colonised to remain free.

"History has shown that the whites always tended to oppress and dominate the non-whites as they feel that these groups were stupid and it's a white man's burden," he said.

He however said that they now attempt to dominate countries not through military means and by using weapons but by using economic power to impoverish countries to make them bow and become part of their empire.

The prime minister said that a strategy of the West was to use a local figure as their puppet to achieve their ambitions.

"Be wary of the West...they can be friends but cannot be trusted. They want to dominate us. They are using our own people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the West condoned street demonstrations so that they could topple the present government and instal someone they endorse.

"They are against me and the present government because I frequently criticise aggression, domination and their insincerity in the economic, political and military aspects," he said.

"We will use all our strengths to defend our independence," he said.

He said that this matter was not a fabrication for his political interest because he had nothing to gain by doing so.

"I am already 74. What more do I want. The highest position I could hold is the prime ministership and I've already got it," he said.

The prime minister said that he had to expose the threat of domination for the sake of the people.

"Independence does not mean that once we have it, we will always have it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he had lived through three colonial rules, under the British, Japanese and the Thai, and he felt humiliated because he had to call them "Tuan" (Sir) even in his own home.

The prime minister said that he had planned to retire last year but had to carry on in view of the attempts to dominate the country.

He also criticised PAS for accusing him of being secular.

Dr Mahathir said that his actions to defend the nation's sovereignty were in line with the teachings of Islam and not secularism.

The foreign media, he said, supported PAS as they wanted PAS to oust Umno, not to help turn Malaysia into an Islamic state.

He also criticised undergraduates who had allowed themselves to be used by the West in their attempt to dominate the country.

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