

# PM: Say qualified yes to globalisation

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues:** Asean should agree on a qualified "yes" in approaching globalisation and international liberalisation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said members' assent should not be without such imperatives like benefits, self-determination, regulation, representation and corporate responsibility or conscience.

For this, all countries should think independently and act according to reason, freedom and independence,

... but Asean members must  
safeguard own interests

ethics, morality and responsibility.

He said member countries, admittedly, will see things differently and have disagreements but too much of it will cause disunity in the approach towards globalisation.

"Many of us will reject the alarming prediction of being re-colonised. We are independent countries and will remain so.

"But if we have to submit to the dictates of others, dictates which are not only demeaning but also deleterious to our interests, can just having our own governments be sufficient to prove that we are not being colonised?" he asked in his keynote speech.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi read out his speech when launching the Asean Business Summit 2000 here

today

Mahathir said the market still had a great deal to deliver and that the domestic economy must be continuously marketed.

"We cannot have a headlong rush into national market liberalisation, oblivious of the need for proper regulatory and transparency framework, the issues of sequencing and readiness.

"I also believe that in Malaysia, as in all countries, we cannot afford to rush headlong without considering the issues of equity and distribution, balance and fairness," he said.