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Learn lessons from history, rakyat told (HL)

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IN THE face of globalisation and dismantling of national borders, Malaysians must not forget the lessons from history or risk being re-colonised, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

The country was previously colonised because the people were not disciplined, and fought among themselves for power and position.

The weak would seek foreign help, thus affecting the nation's defences.

"It looks as though we have forgotten the lessons from history.

"The old cultures and habits that caused us to be colonised for four-and-a-half centuries are still with us, especially among the Malays," Dr Mahathir said.

One of the lessons from history is that proper planning, responsible leadership, discipline, specific orders, training and tactics are important to ensure the success of any struggle, he added.

Another, one offered by the experience of the Malacca Sultanate, is that traitors and those who collaborate with the enemies are worse than the enemies themselves.

In his New Year address, the Prime Minister said there is a false sense of security among Malaysians because the Government has developed the economy and successfully withstood foreign pressures.

"There are those among us who say the protection given by the Government to the weaker communities is discrimination and not in line with Islamic teachings.

"(For them) the struggle for the nation and people is unnecessary. What is important is to enjoy whatever pleasures now, even if it puts an end to the unity among us," Dr Mahathir said.

The seeds of disunity have indeed been sown among the people and is spreading.

"Foreign ideas have been accepted by some people and are disseminated. That the accusations made by the foreigners have no basis does not matter. What is important is that the accusations are believable and can be used to their advantage," the Prime Minister added.

These elements had found that the best time to launch an attack, and from behind, was when the Government was busy defending the nation from foreign threats. They would also not allow the challenge of the new millennium to prevent them from furthering their struggle for position through the encouragement of hatred towards certain people.

"Malaysians can be happy celebrating the new century and millennium, but we cannot willingly welcome the globalisation that comes with it. We must realise that it is a Western creation, and we must modify this system so that our future can be secure," Dr Mahathir said.

He reminded Malaysians that all Western ideologies and systems eventually fail. Cases in point are feudalism, republicanism, dictatorship, communism and socialism.

"Liberal democracy and free capitalism now practised will also not last too. Globalism faces the same fate.

"Unfortunately, before a system or ideology is rejected, many will be sacrificed," he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians must plan carefully to ensure that the country is not sacrificed.

"We must close ranks and put aside differences that can separate us, and face the coming challenges with enthusiasm and resilience.

"Hopefully, we will be successful again and our beloved country will still be free, independent and developed," he said.