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PM: Realise the importance of country's independence

IPOH, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the people not to wait until they are colonised to realise how important it is to be an independent nation.

He said there was little hope in regaining independence if Malaysia returned to foreign hands, considering that those who wanted to overthrow the Government were more powerful, cunning and corrupt.

"They have their own methods as to how to achieve their objectives," he said.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali at his residence tonight, Dr Mahathir called on the people to make preparations in the advent of globalisation.

"With preparations, we will be able to act accordingly. The most important factor is unity among the races which can ward off any attempt at colonisation."

Dr Mahathir said when the Portuguese overthrew the Malacca empire in 1511, it took about 450 years for it to become free.

"If it happens again, I don't think we will be able to repeat what our forefathers did in fighting for freedom," he said, adding that unity was the best weapon in preventing colonisation.

Dr Mahathir earlier chaired the Umno supreme council meeting at the Menteri Besar's residence, the first time the meeting was held outside Kuala Lumpur. He was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

More than 1,000 people gathered at the Menteri Besar's residence to receive Dr Mahathir and his wife.

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