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Unity is strength, Dr M tells G-77

DEVELOPING countries can use their combined strength to influence international policies although they may not be able to do so individually, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said they should work together to be effective.

"But weak though each of us may be, our combined strength is very considerable," he said when addressing the first Summit of the Group of 77 (G-77) developing countries.

Dr Mahathir said the gathering of 133 developing countries in Havana might be regarded as a manifestation of "our unity and solidarity".

He reminded the gathering that "while it is easy to meet, it is not easy to act together. Therein, lies our weakness".

He noted that the rich were apparently more united than the poorer countries.

"Theirs is a small group of only seven countries.

Although they may have varying degrees of differences among them, they close ranks very rapidly if their dominance is challenged".

Should there be new ideas in the social, economic or political fields, they quickly come up with their own interpretations designed to benefit them.

The South has no choice but to react to their interpretations."

"Re-acting limits the choice and is less rewarding," he added.

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