

Culture of riots spells disaster for country, says PM

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SHAH ALAM, Mon: The culture of riots if adopted in the country can prove disastrous as the ones practised in other countries, like in the United States.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said when riots are used to topple the government, then it will become a continuous process, whereby the future government will also face the same problem.

He said when this happens, the country will not have a credible government as most of its resources will be spent on defending its position.

"Thus, the government will not be able to concentrate on developing the country," he said in his keynote address at the senior police officers' conference here today.

In Malaysia, he said, the problem is not as serious as other countries but there are isolated cases of people who do not understand the system and resort to illegal means to replace the government.

"Even if one day they do gain power in the government, they will face the same

threat as the process will go on where a government will be built and again toppled through subversion," he said.

He said the people who create chaos try to get wide-spread coverage from the foreign media who are out to destabilise the country.

"These media will depict police brutality to the extent of tarnishing their image," he said.

He urged the police to maintain their professionalism when carrying out their duties and not to be influenced by instigators.

"Now the people have gone through changes and they're not as docile as before, they are more educated and know how to use their rights to defend their actions," Mahathir said.

The police, he said, also need to have educated personnel in various fields such as laws, forensic, research and business.

He said these fields will help police in their investigations as many criminals have resorted to modern approaches in breaching the law.