

# Don't repeat mistakes: Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the Malays to learn from their mistakes of relying on foreigners if they do not wish to see their race destroyed.

Mahathir, who is Umno president, said there are signs that past mistakes may resurface because in Umno now there are people who place self-interests above party interests by indulging in money politics.

"This will lead to the destruction of the Malays. All these are signs that we will be destroyed ... that what happened 50 years ago will be repeated in the years to come," he said at a ceremony to commemorate 55 years of

struggle and a meeting with Umno veterans at thePWTC.

Mahathir, who devoted a good part of his speech to the 450 years of colonisation of the Malays, began by citing the Malacca sultanate as an example.

The Malays had invited outside powers to protect and help them defeat other Malays which resulted in them losing their rights and powers.

After Malacca fell to the Portuguese in 1511, Malays became colonised by the Dutch, British and Japanese.

He said the Malays had made a political blunder by agreeing to accept protection from foreign powers to the extent that they eventually lost power when all Malay states were colonised.

He said: "The colonialists had weakened their minds. They learned to rely too much on the foreigners and became uninterested in fighting for independence.

"But, are we always thinking about the past? Can merely saying: *Takkan Melayu Hilang di Dunia* (Malays will not perish from this earth), ensure Malays a good future?"

He said the fighting that occurs within Umno is a sign that history is repeating itself.

"Once, Malay leaders fought to rule a state. Now Umno members fight for divisional posts and even in the supreme council," he added.

He called for unity among members and reminded them not to sacrifice the party for personal interests.