

PM: United Umno can resist outsiders

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SIK: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said disunity in Umno may weaken the country's ability to uphold its sovereignty and its resilience to fight various forms of foreign influence and colonialisation.

"This is why we need to strengthen Umno further. We should not allow ourselves to be influenced by false allegations against us," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the West, including their media, "hates Malaysia for its vocal ways."

"They hate me the most," he added during an informal meeting with Sik and Baling Umno leaders at Sek Men Keb Agama here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the West hurled all sorts of criticisms against Malaysia and said it was not democratic and unfair.

"The Westerners know that Umno and the Barisan Nasional government will not allow them to colonise the

country again.

"They want the country's administration to weaken so that we can seek their help. This will give them an opportunity to dictate terms.

"It is to safeguard ourselves against such interventions that I say Umno needs to be stronger and members must be more united," he said.

Dr Mahathir also stressed that Umno's struggle "is not yet over."

The Prime Minister refuted Western views that the Malays were no longer interested in championing the cause of the community and were more concerned about upholding human rights.

He also said the West deemed walking naked in public as a democratic right.

"We are different because we hold to our culture and religious values," he said.

On the issue of Malay rights as raised by the Chinese Associations Election Appeals Committee, the Prime Minister said the Government was looking into its remaining demands.