

Ensure that justice is for all, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for a more compassionate New World Order, and a new globalisation that emphasises justice for all without the hallowed and civilised principle of "special and differential".

The prime minister said it is time to have a new globalisation that works "less in the

service of the very wealthy, and much harder in the service of the very poor".

"The new globalisation we must foster must reward enterprise and excellence; but it must also contribute to, and not detract from, this more just, more caring, kinder, gentler, more compassionate New World Order," he said, at the opening of the International Conference on Globalisation.

Mahathir said market fundamentalists and globalisation theologians have elevated what they call "survival of the fittest" and "economic effi-

ciency" - the maximisation of profits and the making of money - as the most important moral basis of their 'religion'.

He said all too often, survival of the fittest merely means survival of those with the least scruples.

Questioning the fairness of the existing global system, Mahathir said the developing world today only asks for simple fair play.

He said even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that the developed countries impose the highest trade barriers on manufactured

goods, in which they have the greatest advantage.

"When the developing world goes to the World Trade Organisation and asks for trade liberalisation on textiles, clothing and footwear, it is out-stonewalled, and is told that this is simply not doable.

"The political costs to the governments of the rich are simply too high," he said.

The poor developing countries, on the other hand, have to "move heaven and earth to liberalise, no matter the merciless consequences on their people," he said.