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Mahathir-Fadzil

DR MAHATHIR RAPS PAS FOR TURNING TO "WHITE MAN"

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today took PAS to task for turning to the "white man" to solve "brown man's" problems.

"Running away to a white man to solve a brown man's problem is something that we did ages ago that we have discarded that idea already," he said during a press conference at the end of the first day of the 55th Umno General Assembly, at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

He was responding to a question by a foreign media representative on the recent visit by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor to Australia where he met Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

"We can solve our own problem without running to someone. But these people still live in the past, they are PAS. He thinks white man can solve brown man's problem anytime," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked whether Malaysia was concerned over the visit, Dr Mahathir replied in the negative.

Answering a related question, the prime minister said Australia should solve its own problem and not meddle in other country's affairs.

"In Australian jails, there is a ratio of 17 aborigines to one white Australian. Australia should look into this," Dr Mahathir said.

To a separate question, Dr Mahathir said he highlighted the weaknesses of the Malays in his presidential address at the assembly because the Malays thought they would always feel safe under whatever government.

"They should not believe that they are forever safe no matter what happens," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that the Malay rights to special quotas would not be perpetual and as such they should make the most of opportunities for self-upliftment.

-- BERNAMA

JM ZS RYN