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PM: New attempts by foreign media to destroy economy

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday revealed new attempts by the foreign media to destroy the country's economy after they had failed to make Malaysia seek aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

He said the foreign media was furious with the Malaysian Government as the country had recovered through its own effort despite the attack on the ringgit and without begging from the IMF and the World Bank.

"And there are signs that they are trying again to destroy our economy through their reports and writings so that foreign investors would shun Malaysia; the tourists will not come to Malaysia; our share market will tumble; our debts will increase; and banks and businesses will in a critical condition.

"We monitor these attempts and we will develop our own strategies," he said when delivering his presidential address at the opening of Umno general assembly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said foreign media loathes Malaysia as all their predictions did not materialise such as racism in the country that will prevent its development.

Malaysia, he said, had instead restored the peace after the 1969 racial riot and developed its economy to be one of the Asian tiger economies.

"From an agriculture economy which depended on rubber and tin, we succeeded in becoming the 17th largest manufacturing and trading nation in the world," he said.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners hate Malaysia, especially its current leadership, because the Government was able to defend the economic and the financial attack they had launched, with the country's own approach and funds.

"They hated it because after predicting that Malaysia and its Government will collapse, today, it is clear that the tragedy they predicted did not become a reality.

"On the converse, the economy grew rapidly, much faster than the growth rates of countries which had received their assistance," he said.

He said Malaysia is also seen by foreigners as not only a big-headed developing country but also a country led by Muslims, which in the foreigners' eyes, is "a terrorist country".

He said they loathe the Malaysian Government for exposing their evil intent when they introduced the concept of globalisation and a borderless world.

"It was Malaysia which first challenged and rejected this concept aimed at dominating the world with economic might, by manipulating the currencies, and with giant corporations which are bigger and richer than most countries in the world.

"It is only idiots who always idolise the whites, who will not accept all this," he said, to the thunderous applause from the packed hall.

He reminded the Malays about attempts to recolonise the country by bringing down the current Government under the disguise of a fairer and more democratic government so that rogue currency traders are free to devalue currencies and destroy the economy which will result in riots and millions of job losses.

He said these foreigners, who are condemning the Government for practising crony capitalism, seem to be sympathetic towards a certain

group in the country which is fighting for so-called reforms and justice.

Dr Mahathir also questioned foreigners' motive in being very sympathetic with the Opposition party, which seems to be struggling to build an Islamic nation, while the fact is Muslims everywhere are being suppressed.

He said Islam to these foreigners is synonymous with terrorism and it is not possible that they will want a government which they label as terrorists.

"They only wish to topple the Malaysian Government, the National Front Government, a government that is prepared to criticise them when they resort to violence, a government that rejected their advice to hand over the economic management of the country to their agents, the IMF and the World Bank," he said.

The Umno president also spoke at length on the current Malay generation who are complacent and too confident that any Malaysian Government will help them and safeguard their Bumiputera rights.

He said the Malays now have forgotten their history and taken for granted the Umno's efforts to free them from the colonialists and restore their Bumiputera rights.

He lamented the Malays do not work hard which make them being left out in the economic field and knowledge acquisition.

Dr Mahathir reminded the Malays to start thinking of the possibility that they may not be protected and need to be independent.

He said the Malays, who do not rely on their special rights are hard-working, patient and do not wish to get rich quickly, will become Malaysians who are resilient and successful.

When globalisation becomes a reality and the walls of nation are dismantled by foreigners, he said all policies that protect the special rights of the Malays as "the sons of the soil" will be challenged.

"The Malays will no longer be able to hide behind their special rights, behind the New Economic Policy, behind their borders," he noted.

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