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`People reject extremism, violence'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The country enjoys peace and stability because the people reject all forms of extremism and violence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He, however, warned of the possibility that the situation might change because of the emergence of certain quarters who want to change the democratic system of rule.

He said this group of people was propagating its system whereby all decisions would have to be referred to certain individuals who appoint themselves as decision makers.

"In this system, although the elected legislative body reaches a decision, this non-elected body will have the powers to overrule," the Prime Minister said at a dinner hosted by the National Senators Club here tonight.

Also present were his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Chief Justice Tan Sri Mohd Dzaidin Abdullah, club president Datuk Abdul Aziz Rahman and Dewan Negara president Datuk Michael Chen.

Dr Mahathir said the Dewan Negara did not cause problems because the majority of its members were appointed by the Government.

He said it would be a different story if Dewan Negara had more opposition members.

"In the United States, for example, the President sometimes cannot have any decisions or laws passed because of opposition from Senate members who are from the other party."

Dr Mahathir advised senators to be more involved in community and social issues affecting the country.

For instance, he said, senators could volunteer to explain the importance of education to parents.

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