

Mahathir

questions sincerity of developed countries

GENEVA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said developed countries that try to discipline developing nations on the basis that they are undemocratic, corrupt or lack transparency, are driven more by ulterior motives than honest concern over the welfare of the people.

Questioning the sincerity of the developed countries, he said:

“Is it really concern for the well-being of the poor oppressed people of the countries or is it frustration at not being able to get at the wealth that these countries have, not being able to exploit their potential?”

“It would seem that the latter is more likely to be the objective,” he said in his speech on *Social Dimension of Globalisation* at the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said powerful countries invented all kinds of reasons for moving in directly to interfere in the affairs of poor countries, claiming that they had the responsibility to protect the well-being of all the people in the world, even if they were citizens of other countries.

The key word, he said, was “be democratic or all the people and not just the government would be punished, deprived of food and medicine and impoverished through economic actions”.

He said, to these powerful nations, even the need to pay lip-service to the notion of non-interference was frustrating, thus they created other ways to dominate the poorer countries by using international agencies and non-governmental organisations for these bodies were not subject to the dictum of non-interference.

The NGOs, he said, gained legitimacy by citing corruption, abuse of power all manners or excuses to keep the government of the independent countries submissive.