

Dr M: Muslim nations should use oil as a weapon

MALACCA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has again urged Muslim nations to consider using oil as a collective weapon to stop the escalating oppression faced by the Islamic world.

The Prime Minister said that oil was the only thing that Muslim nations had which was needed by the world and they had the power to determine the price and supply of the commodity worldwide.

"If they know how to wield this power, other people will not be so oppressive.

"But the problem is they (Muslim countries) quarrel among themselves and when one party wants to cut supply, another party will increase it.

"As a result, they have not been able to use this power to their advantage," he said in reply to a question during a dialogue session

after opening the Muslim World and Malay World convention here yesterday.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said that oil was a very powerful weapon which, if managed carefully by the Muslim countries, could end the oppression and sufferings faced by them today.

He said that although Opec was not made up solely of Muslim countries, their influence was enough to

sway its direction, provided they remained united.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said the Muslims, including the Malays, were going through a dark phase and were being oppressed everywhere.

Justice and fairness, he said, no longer existed for them because they were weak and unable to defend themselves as they had failed to master knowledge and the

economy to protect themselves.

"Many who are frustrated by the situation opted for violence which only brings them further misery.

"Because their actions are driven by revenge and not careful thinking and planning, they fail to consider their strength or their weaknesses and are thus destined to fail," he added.

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Dr Mahathir said it was a reality that the Malays, as Muslims, were under severe attack not because they had done something wrong but rather because they were weak.

In the world where "might is right", he said, strength and wealth would excuse everything.

"We cannot expect others to change their ways to accommodate our needs, so our only choice is to buck up so that we can protect our own interests," he added.

The three-day convention was attended by participants of Malay descent worldwide.

At the dialogue session, he reminded the Malays in Malaysia to always strive for excellence in every field lest they met the same fate that had befallen their counterparts in Singapore.

Unless they were willing to work hard and be united, it was not impossible for the Malays to lose the power to administer their own country as happened to the Singapore Malays.

Dr Mahathir also told reporters that he was satisfied with the statement from the US embassy expressing regret for the "inappropriate" treatment given him and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Bawwi, during their official visits to New York and Los Angeles.

"To me, that is adequate. I had not planned to complain about the treatment accorded me until it also happened to Abdullah.

"The incident happened to me a long time ago but I just let it go; but when a similar

incident happened to Abdullah, then I view it as an unhealthy trend.

"They had no respect for us at all and they were so rude. Surely, they did not think that we would carry a bomb in our plane," he said.

Dr Mahathir had said on Tuesday that US Immigration officials were "rude and rough" towards him when he was in New York.

A day earlier, Abdullah had said - after an MP brought the matter up in Parliament - that

he was asked to remove his shoes and belt at the Los Angeles Airport for security checks before he was allowed to fly to New York to address the UN General Assembly.

Following that disclosure, the US embassy here issued a

statement on Wednesday expressing its sincere regret for any inconvenience or inappropriate treatment that senior Malaysian government officials might have experienced during their visits to the United States.