

Dr M: Terror will win no cause

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■ By Aimon Mohd and
Sajahan Waheed
news@nstp.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Describing the weekend bomb blasts in Bali as one of the many unfortunate incidents engineered by “angry and frustrated people” in retaliation and revenge, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he felt terrorism was no way to fight any cause.

The Prime Minister said no attempt at all was being made by the “superpowers” to find out why people were so angry that they were willing even to blow themselves up in pursuit of their terrorist aims.

Instead, Dr Mahathir said, more things were being done which increased the anger of the people. He was responding to reporters' questions

after opening the Federal Territory Barisan Nasional convention here.

Dr Mahathir believed acts of terrorism would continue unless the underlying causes were addressed.

“There is a lot of anger in the world today. The Americans are very angry because, for the first time, their country had been attacked and it is shameful for them. They are acting as angry people and this raises the anger of other people. There is nobody working on the basis of reason and logic.

“I always suspected that something like this might happen anywhere in the world because at this moment, I believe the level of hatred, bitterness and frustration is greater than immediately after the Sept 11 incident.

“One day, we may be exposed also and unfortunately be caught at the

scene of an attack. It is not only the tourists of European origin or non-Muslims, because Muslims themselves will one day be blown up.”

He said precautions could be and had been taken, but with terrorists, especially the modern ones, there was no guarantee that everyone would be protected.

On whether Malaysia would tighten security, Dr Mahathir said the Government had already taken the necessary measures. These included detention under preventive laws such as the Internal Security Act, although, he added, some people had accused the country of being undemocratic for doing so.

“Do you have to wait until 180 people get blown up before you act?”

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he asked.

On whether Southeast Asia was a high-risk terrorist hub, Dr Mahathir said bomb blasts had been recorded in many places, not just Indonesia.

“So you cannot say that it is just in Southeast Asia. And you must remember the terrorist who flew the planes into the building (World Trade Center in New York) were based in the United States itself, so the US can also be a hotbed for terrorists.”

Meanwhile, Bernama reports that security at all sensitive places, including foreign embassies, had been tightened as a precaution in the wake of Bali.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri

Norian Mai today said police were still waiting for intelligence reports on the blasts from their Indonesian counterparts.

This would help police to take measures to beef up security not only at “potential targets” but also in other areas, he said at his office here.

He said Indonesian police had confirmed that no Malaysians were among the dead identified so far.

In **Alor Star**, Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Hadi A. Wayarabi Alhadar said his country would ensure the safety of Malaysian visitors.

He said security was being stepped up and urged visitors not to worry as the police had increased their presence in all major towns.