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Mahathir-Term

PM'S TERM OF OFFICE NOT LIMITED TO ANY SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that a term of a president or a prime minister should not be limited to a specific time-frame as this will make him less effective in managing a country.

For example, he said, if a president is restricted to a two-year term, he would spend the first year settling down, the second learning the problems and by the third year, he would be out.

Similarly, he said, if a president is allowed in office for only two terms, by the second term, the person would be regarded as a lame duck.

"Nobody ever follows him because he is on his way out anyway. You wait for the next president," he told the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council here.

Asked to clarify reports that he was not going to be prime minister for life, Dr Mahathir, speaking during a question and answer session, said in the end nothing would be done.

"That is why I require 21 years," he said in jest to the amusement and applause of the audience.

"Strictly speaking, if I drop dead now, I would be classified as a man who was prime minister for life," he said, again to the applause and laughter of the audience.

-- BERNAMA

MAD KTC RM