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Mahathir-Ideology

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEOLOGIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SHAH ALAM, May 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malaysians not to get carried away with the approaches and ideologies of other people.

What other people invented were for their own interest, the prime minister said.

"Look at the socialist and communist ideologies which ostensibly enabled the countries practising them to be regarded as heaven on earth," he said at the Workers Day Rally 2002, here.

These two ideologies touted the slogan that everyone was equal and were sold to and accepted by their own people as well as the people of other countries, he said.

"But today they have dropped the ideologies that they invented, Unfortunately the situation in the countries that had accepted and practised them is beyond repair," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia might be regarded as not being so democratic or free but it was safer and more developed.

"We need not apologise to anyone for our actions in Malaysia. Their ways need not necessarily be better or ours, worse," he said.

What was important was not ideology or perception but the wellbeing of the people, he said, adding that otherwise, so many people would not be trying to sneak into Malaysia.

On the focus on the information technology revolution now, Dr Mahathir said it was the same as the industrial revolution 200 years ago which rendered the handicraft industry uncompetitive because machines could produce more items of the same quality at greater speed.

"When mass production was introduced, production became cheaper and even the low-income group could afford it," he said, adding that computers could now further facilitate the production of goods and services.

"That's the wonder of computers to the extent that goods can be produced without workers except for supervision of the automated machines and robots," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ AT JK