

29 SEP 2002

Mahathir-Justice

THERE'S NO MORE JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD, SAYS MAHATHIR

SUBANG, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that what is happening to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat shows that there is no more justice in this world as a person who is not liked will not receive a fair treatment.

"In the case of Arafat, it appears that he is not liked by certain people and as a result, he will not receive fair treatment because there is no more justice in this world, he told a media conference upon his return here after attending the fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in Denmark and making a private visit to Europe.

In this regard, the prime minister described all the talk about justice, fair play, human rights and democracy that is going around as "sheer nonsense and mere hypocrisy."

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions on Arafat's recent to him for help while under Israeli military siege in his headquarters in Ramallah and the subsequent letters he (Dr Mahathir) wrote to key world leaders urging them to intervene.

The prime minister said he had the opportunity to discuss the matter at length with French President Jacques Chirac in Denmark.

"I get the impression that there is no justice in the world. If we are not liked, anything can be done (to us) irrespective of whether or not it's fair," he said.

When it was pointed out that he had painted a world that was not a nice place to live in, Dr Mahathir said: "At the moment, the world is not a nice place at all. All this talk about democracy is sheer propaganda. There is no democracy in this world, not even in democratic countries.

"When one talks about democracy, Malaysia is more democratic than most other democratic nations in the world."

He was also asked about the decision by Canada to impose visa on Malaysians visiting that country.

Describing it as "very unfortunate", Dr Mahathir said Malaysia thought that the Canadians were friendly and that they "know about us".

"But, apparently, we don't know the Canadians very well," he said.

On claims by that Canadian authorities that Malaysian passports were vulnerable to abuse, he said: "Well, if that has been so, it has been so for a long time and they have not discriminated against us. Why now?"

Responding to remarks that certain measures taken by the United States and Canada seemed to indicate that Kuala Lumpur's efforts to fight terrorism were not appreciated, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia "doesn't do things for other people to appreciate but we do things because they are right."

He also commented on the outcome of a foreign survey stating that Malaysia had fallen out of the list of top 25 destinations in country ranking for foreign direct investment (FDI) from its previous 22nd position.

He said that said generally speaking, there was not much money going around and that that was why he had stressed in the 2003 Budget the need to generate the economy from domestic sources.

-- BERNAMA

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