

Europeans a threat: PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned Malaysians to be wary of the Europeans, saying that future threats to the country could once again come from them.

He said Europeans, including those who have migrated to the Americas, Australia and New Zealand – sometimes referred to as Westerners – who have colonised much of the world in the past may seek to do so again in the near future.

Because of this, he added, there is a need to know the Europeans well for “our fate, our life will depend on how we interact with them”.

The prime minister said he is reluctant to criticise Europeans because those whom he knows will feel hurt and the European countries which are friendly towards Malaysia will feel hurt. “Certainly their media will condemn me as racist but I consider exposing who the Europeans are has become so important that the risk must be taken,” said the Umno president in his opening speech entitled “Future Threats” at the 54th party general assembly yesterday (*more reports Page 2*).

Mahathir said as there will be numerous attempts by Europeans to colonise Malaysia either indirectly or directly, it is important that “we know this race and their activities as failure to do so will make it difficult for us to prepare and strategise for

our own safety”.

The Europeans are seeking to impose their values on the rest of the world, including the culture of hedonism and a free market system.

Mahathir also said Malaysia has succeeded in practising democracy but Europeans are accusing it of being undemocratic and dictatorial.

“Who are they to accuse our government as dictatorial? Aren’t they the former colonialists whose rule was dictatorial and oppressive? Have they not just invaded a weak country in order to gain power?”

He called on Malaysians to be strong and united and he said Umno, as the leading party in Barisan Nasional, must be strong and united so that the country can face any eventuality.

He said it is unfortunate that the struggle for posts in Umno has become so critical that the interests of the party race and nation are pushed aside. “If more members adopt this attitude, the party will lose not because the Opposition is strong but because indirectly Umno members collude with the opposition parties. In truth this is a betrayal against the struggle of the party religion, race and nation,” he said.

Mahathir also said efforts to bring together the different communities have not been fully successful as the new generation is divided and choose to attend different schools according to their race.

He said the National Service, which is expected to be implemented next year, is one way to bring the younger generation closer together.