

PM warns of war Between classes

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MBABANE (Swaziland): Disparities brought about by globalisation will cause a new world war, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said such a war, however, would not be one concerning the alliances of nations.

"It will be between classes, the rich ethnic minority states against the poor ethnic majority states.

"The rich will not only become richer but they will be separated from the poor because of ethnicity and nationality.

"Sooner or later- the poor will hit back. The rich will not be able to enjoy their wealth forever," he said when delivering

his keynote address at the opening of the Smart Partnership Global 2003 International Dialogue here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir made an impassioned plea to make the "inevitable global nation" work by reinterpreting it.

He said the philosophy of "prospering our neighbour, of win-win formulas" must be brought into the vocabulary of the globalised world.

Dr Mahathir said to correct the disparities, the rich and the poor would have to share the "cake of prosperity" unequally at first but progressing towards greater equitability with the passage of time.

"No overnight wealth, no overnight impoverishment. It is, we in Malaysia believe, far better to have a slice of a

growing cake than the whole of a disappearing cake," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali arrived from Algeria and were met at the Matsapha International Airport by Swaziland Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini and joint dialogue convenors Prince Guduza and CPTM chief executive Datuk Dr Mihaela Y. Smith.

His delegation included Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid and Malaysian High Commissioner in South Africa Datuk Zainal Azman Zainal Abidin.

The King of Swaziland King Mswati III opened the dialogue.