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Mahathir-Europeans

CRITICISM AGAINST EUROPEANS WON'T HURT ECONOMY, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he did not think his criticism on the ways of the Europeans raised at the 54th Umno General Assembly would hurt the Malaysian economy.

"I don't think so. Even if it does, it will be only for a short while," the prime minister said in response to a question on the matter at a media conference at the end of the second day of the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

In his address at the opening of the assembly yesterday, the Umno president, among others, said that the history of the Europeans was synonymous with wars and tests of strength.

Also yesterday, at a media conference, he said that the Europeans and their war-mongering nature were the source of all the problems in the country.

Dr Mahathir said in the past, people would level criticism against the "white people", "foreigners" or "big powers."

"I believe in calling a spade, a spade. I've always done that. People say the same thing. They say foreigners, or they say those people or the big powers.

"But, actually, what they mean if they say "white people", they mean Europeans," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he did not think that the Europeans, whom he described in the speech as the people of the nations of Europe, including those who migrated and set up new nations in America, Australia and New Zealand should feel affronted.

"I don't think the Europeans should feel hurt just because I use the right word. They have used the right word about us for a long time. I mean, we are okay with it," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MAM KHY TS