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Mahathir-Mindset

MALAYSIAN MINDSET MUST BE DECOLONISED- DR MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has stressed the need for the mindset of certain Malaysians to be decolonised failing which it will be the biggest hindrance to national development.

Accepting an honorary doctorate in management and engineering from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) here, Dr Mahathir said when the government planned a viable project there was criticism not only from Europeans and their media but also from Malaysians whose mindset had been colonised.

"Infact after independence our mindset should no longer be colonised. But it appears our colonial mentality cannot be wholly discarded. Many of us still do not believe in our own capabilities," the former Prime Minister said.

The doctorate was presented to Dr Mahathir by UTM Chancellor Her Royal Highness Sultanah Zanariah of Johor.

Dr Mahathir said many still believed "that Europeans were more capable than us" and they considered moves to turn a developing country like Malaysia into a fully developed nation as mere day-dreaming.

It was true there could no longer be direct colonial rule but they could colonise through new ways by making use of certain Malaysians, who have yet to free themselves from the clutches of colonial thinking, as tools, Dr Mahathir said.

He also reminded certain local non-governmental organisations (NGO), created by the colonial nations to support foreign NGOs which did not wish to see this country become developed, not to become their tools.

Development projects such as Putrajaya, Cyberjaya, the North-South Highway, the electric train double track project, the Penang Bridge, the Petronas Twin Towers and the KL International Airport (KLIA) were all labelled as mega projects, he said.

These projects were opposed by the local NGOs and at times by sections of the local media and the media of former colonialists cheered loudly because their colonial mindset had become so effective.

"If we free ourselves from these clutches and colonial mindset and ponder about a Malaysia without these projects, which have been labelled as mega projects...what else then we will have.

"Imagine a Malaysia without all these development projects, what else will be there to differentiate Malaysia from other developing nations...surely there will be none," he said.

The government had also not neglected the rural areas which were equipped with roads, electricity, water, schools and clinics.

Dr Mahathir stressed that Malaysia was no bankrupt or beggar which had to seek help from others to develop these mega projects.

He said Malaysia's financial position was very much stronger than that of most developing nations and even that of some developed countries.

Moreover all these projects were useful and fully used by Malaysians.

To develop the country and turn it into a developed one, Malaysians should aim high.

"No doubt we should study every project that we want to put up and give our views without saying mega this and mega that. We should not echo the views and the words of foreigners particularly our former colonialists," he said.

"We should resort to our own thinking and evaluation based on our means
and our needs."
-- BERNAMA
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