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Mahathir-Europeans

PROBLEMS SPAWNED BY EUROPEAN COLONIALISTS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that history has shown that problems faced by the country started with the presence of the Europeans here.

He said that before the Europeans came, everybody was living quite happily in Malaysia, which attracted visitors from faraway places.

"The Arabs came, the Indians and the Chinese came but we were not conquered. But when the Europeans came they colonised us.

"Now they are trying to impose on us all their ideologies, economic policies and all that. As a result of such imposition, we have problems," he told a media conference at the end of the first day of the 54th Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir was critical of the Europeans in his speech when opening the assembly this morning, noting that the history of Europe was the history of wars and tests of strength.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was doing very well until 1997 when the Europeans, whom he defined in the speech as people from Europe including those who migrated and set up new nations in America, Australia and New Zealand, started devaluing the ringgit and the currencies of other countries.

The Umno president said East Asia was supposed to be the engine of growth for the whole world with the 21st century touted as being Asia's Century.

"But with one stroke, by attacking the currencies, now people don't talk about the 21st century as the Century of Asia.

"It is quite obvious it comes from them. If you do not notice it, I don't know what will make you notice it," he said.

The prime minister also elaborated on the Europeans' penchant for war.

"If you look through history, they are the ones who caused trouble. They are war-like people, they love war," he said.

Echoing a point raised in his speech, Dr Mahathir said the Europeans were now spending billions of dollars creating new weapons which had to be tested.

He said this was done either by proxy or they themselves would go to war to know whether the weapons would work or not.

"And people will have to pay the price. People will be killed because they (the Europeans) want to try out their weapons," he said.

When asked whether he saw developments now as a clash of civilisations, he said it appeared that this was becoming the case for the target of the Europeans seemed to be Muslim countries.

In admitting his boldness in rebuking the Europeans, Dr Mahathir said: "We are very shy about criticising people but they are not shy about criticising us."

-- BERNAMA

MAM KHY YBY