

# 'Don't be embarrassed by M'sian democracy'

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**SHAH ALAM:** Malaysians should not feel embarrassed by criticisms from the West that the democratic system here is not as liberal as theirs, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Malaysians should realise that the democracy practised in Malaysia was for the good of the country and the people, he said, adding that the country and its people should not be sacrificed for democracy.

"We've seen how liberal democracies have destroyed cultures, morals and religions. We need not legalise the destructions in the name of democracy.

"We should take what is good and discard the bad," he said in an acceptance speech after being conferred an honorary Doctorate in Political Science and Government by Universiti Teknologi Mara

(UiTM) here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, who is UiTM Chancellor, conferred the PhD at the university's sixth commemorative convocation yesterday.

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid; Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali; and Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh were present at the ceremony.

Dr Mahathir said democracy was a very difficult system and exposed to the possibilities of corruption, chaos and anarchy.

Killings and all sorts of crimes that occurred in several developing countries that tried to practise democratic system were proof of how difficult and dangerous democratic practices can be, he said.

In the citation for Dr Maha-

thir, the King said the former premier deserved the award as he had proven to be an exceptional statesman who made significant contributions towards the nation, the people and in

the development of Islam.

"It is timely for the UiTM to honour a statesman who used his wisdom and knowledge to champion the cause of his people and the country," the King

said.

He also congratulated Dr Siti Hasmah and her children, saying a man's success had a lot to do with the support of his wife and family.