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Seven minutes for address is too short, says PM

Ahmad A. Talib

STOCKHOLM, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has seven minutes to address the United Nations General Assembly, and the Prime Minister wondered what he could say in such a short time.

Dr Mahathir said the time limit was very short.

"Before one can say anything substantial and complete one's point properly, the time is already up," he said.

Dr Mahathir's last address at the assembly was in 1999.

Asked to comment on speeches by other leaders in the current session, Dr Mahathir said the United Nations seemed caught in a Catch 22 situation. (Catch 22 is a term that describes a no-win situation).

The Prime Minister argued that no one person or country could change the world.

"Unilateralism is not the way to solve the world's problems," he said, adding that there must be multilateral approach to settle them.

"Malaysia has its own views and we believe that solving problems can only be done if everyone co-operates.

"But we know some big powers are reluctant.

"While the move to seek reforms in the UN seems to be gaining momentum, a veto from a powerful country is enough to stop that from happening," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to address the assembly tomorrow in New York.