

13 DEC 1998

Umno-Mahathir (Foreigners)

FOREIGN POWERS NEED NOT INTERFERE IN MALAYSIA'S AFFAIRS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded foreign powers not to interfere in Malaysia's domestic affairs because its leaders can lead the country better than them.

The prime minister said Malaysians were in a better position to administer their country and did not need the foreigners' advice.

"In the 400 years our country was under colonial masters, Malaysia's progress was very limited. We govern our own country for 40 years and our development is hundreds of times bigger than theirs.

"They should learn from us," he said in his adjournment speech at the

Umno special general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would not bow to foreign powers as long as the country was under Umno's leadership.

"This race (West) should not to teach us, we know our country better than them, we will not bow to them, God willing," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians could not follow Western ways because the Western powers were inconsistent and constantly changed their stand to suit their own purpose.

For example, he said, the West had previously lauded socialism and condemned capitalism but had now returned to capitalism with the aim to control the whole world.

The West also considered those who opposed capitalism as outdated and ignorant of modern methods, he said.

"We cannot accept their capitalism. We must hold true to systems that have our values," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were religious people and must hold on to religion and spiritualism besides concentrating on activities that could enrich the race and country.

He said the West's selfishness was clearly seen when they were quick to rush to defend Kuwait from Iraqi attacks but did not do anything to

stop
the oppression of Muslims in Kosowo.

"In Kuwait, they were only protecting their own interests, especially their interest in petroleum. They wanted petroleum from Kuwait so they defended Kuwait, ostensibly to safeguard human rights but actually to safeguard their petroleum rights." he said.

-- BERNAMA

HS RAZ JK