

Preserve What's Good, Discard What's Bad - Dr M
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia should maintain what is good in its political system and only make changes when there is a need, former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We should preserve what is good and discard what is bad. We should change ... but we should change only because it is necessary and it is good for us ... We shouldn't change because everybody is changing," he said in his keynote address at the CEO Forum 2011 on Malaysian Politics: Should It Also Transform with the Economic Transformation here yesterday.

The forum is organised by Perdana Leadership Foundation.

He added: "For example, people said there are corruption in the system, we can change the system and corruption will disappear. Corruption happens everywhere in the world and you can't just change this by turning the system."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could develop its own system with a modified form of Beijing consensus and Washington consensus.

"I think we have been talking about Washington consensus but today we have an alternative, we have Beijing consensus," he said.

According to Dr Mahathir, China has successfully transformed with remarkable economic growth.

"We can take the best from them and make our own particular formula that suit our country because our country is unique ... we have racial mix and identities," he said.

He said transformation should come from the mindset and not really the system.

"It is not so much the system that is important, it is more of the mindset of people. If the mindset is not compatible with the system, it doesn't work.

Even if you are a great liberal democracy, it would not work if the mindset is wrong.

"In democracy, the most important mindset is the acceptance. In democratic system, you can also lose and you must accept it," he said.

On why Malaysia adopted the "Look East Policy", Dr Mahathir said: "They have good ideas and successful people in those days ... because of their technologies, ability to manage well and well-organised in military forces."

He added: "There were regression in the West and progression in the East.

They recovered much faster than the West. We acquired what was right from the Japanese."

(Bernama)

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