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Dr M: Freedom has its limits

I am not against human rights but the abuse of it, says former PM

KUALA LUMPUR: The abuse of freedom of liberties will be detrimental to society, said Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"All freedom must be limited. The problem is in determining the limits. Everybody wants to be free, but will it infringe on the freedom of others?"

"I am not against human rights but the abuse of it," he said at a luncheon talk with foreign delegates attending the Umno general assembly at PWTC yesterday.

He also said the tabling of the Peaceful Assembly Bill showed that the Government was sensitive to the needs of the people.

"The Government has responded very quickly after complaints that

When a government does not pay attention to the problems of the people, they will eventually revolt.
— TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

the 30-day notice to notify the police to assemble peacefully was too long," he said.

He also noted that the Government had tackled the problem of unemployment and hardcore poverty by implementing several economic transformation programmes.

"Uprisings like the Arab Spring will not spread to our country.

"This is because the Government

has taken proper care of its people.

"When a government does not pay attention to the problems of the people, they will eventually revolt," he said.

On Umno, Dr Mahathir said the party's performance had improved since the general election in 2008.

"In the last election, people voted for the Opposition because they were not happy with Umno's leadership. I believe things have changed."

Asked if he had seen any special development in states ruled by the Opposition, Dr Mahathir said: "I only see dirty water. Water that you cannot drink."

He said even Selangor was facing a similar problem because the state government had refused to cooperate with Pahang.



International meet-up: Mahathir being introduced to Venezuelan delegate Saul Antonio Ortega Campus (right) during the luncheon talk at PWTC yesterday. - Bernama