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| Newspaper | New Straits Times |
| Date | 13/9/2011 |

Dr Mahathir: British advisers acted as rulers

SERDANG: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad agreed that Malaysia was never colonised by the British but noted that it was only a technical point as the British acted otherwise.

He said that though the British were only advisers, they acted as if they were the rulers, instead of the sultans.

"We were technically never colonised. The sultans invited the British to come and advise them on how to administer the country. We

were not conquered in that sense.

"Just like Penang, we were paid to give them a kind of trading station. But the fact remains that when the British were here, they operated as if we were colonised.

"In other words, the British did not advise, they gave orders. The English language is such that the adviser rules and the rulers advise,"

he said when asked on the claim by the National Professors' Council (NPC) that the nation was never colonised by Britain and had merely

been a protectorate.

Speaking to the press after his appointment as the first chancellor of Perdana University here yesterday, Dr Mahathir said that according to the British system, the speaker in Parliament, was not allowed to speak.

"In the Commonwealth, the wealth is not common but compiled by a few countries," he said, drawing laughter and applause at the same time.

It had been reported earlier that Professor Datuk Dr Zainal Kling, from NPC, had said that Malaysia was

never a British colony.

"I went through this period, from the time under British rule, the Japanese, Thai, then the British military and civilian administration, and then independent Malaysia.

"I practically observed history moving before my eyes, and I find people making statements that are not really relevant, not really factual.

"I think it is necessary that they don't invent history and stick to the facts of history," said Dr Mahathir.