

# Malaysia to continue using Huawei technology

**TOKYO:** Malaysia remains committed to using Huawei technology despite allegations of spying levelled against the Chinese tech giant, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the Malaysian market was too small to have a major impact on a large company like Huawei.

“Huawei’s research and development capabilities are bigger than Malaysia’s, so we will use its technology as much as possible.

“Yes, there may be some spying, but what is there to spy in Malaysia?”

Malaysia, said Dr Mahathir, was an “open book”.

“Everybody knows if any country wants to invade Malaysia, it can walk through and we will not resist because it is a waste of time.”

He was speaking at the 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia (Nikkei Conference) here yesterday.

The session was moderated by Sonoko Watanabe, who is the editor-in-chief of *Nikkei’s* Osaka editorial office.

Google recently suspended business with Huawei that requires the transfer of hardware, software and technical services, except those publicly available via open source licensing.

The move proved a blow to the Chinese technology giant, which the United States government had sought to blacklist around the world.

Questions were posed over the status of Huawei’s plans for 5G development in Malaysia.

Telecommunications company Maxis in February signed a memorandum of understanding with

Huawei to accelerate 5G technology in Malaysia, which would see both companies cooperating on full-fledged 5G trials with end-to-end systems and services.

Dr Mahathir said the US and other Western nations should acknowledge that Asian nations could create products which were competitive and as such, should not threaten its competition.

“(For instance), Huawei has an advantage over American technology. So, the US should compete. Sometimes China is better and sometimes the US is.”

Dr Mahathir said the US pressure on Huawei and the deployment of warships to the South China Sea had given the impression that the US was more interested in a battle with China.

“The reality is that we must accept that the US cannot remain the world’s strongest country or possess the world’s best technology forever.”

Later, at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan here, he said: “America is afraid of Huawei’s advancements and they are suspicious that Huawei might spy on them.

“Maybe there is ground for condemnation, but I think that is not the way to go. You should compete with them in areas where you are strong.”

Dr Mahathir said he was sure that the US’ Central Intelligence Agency, for example, had been reporting everything that was happening in Malaysia and China.

“We did not boycott the US because of that. They (the US) had the capacity (then) and now Huawei has got the capacity.”