

In defence of the country

Policy to address security threats needed, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: A policy to address security threats, which have become more complex and harder to tackle via conventional means, is needed to ensure the country's security and public order be maintained, says the Prime Minister.

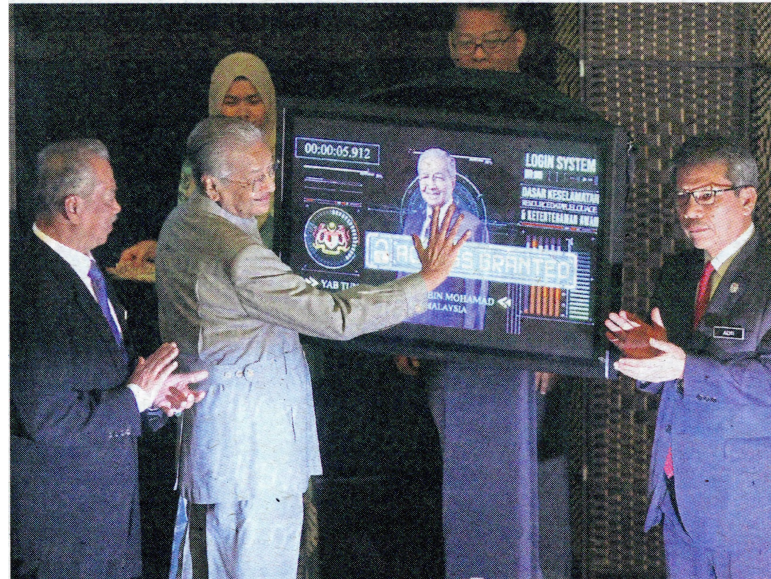
The world is facing all sorts of complex security issues and they have become a challenge to any country to ensure the people's safety and security is guaranteed, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said external threats such as transborder crime, ideologies and understandings that go against religion, culture and the law, contribute to the increase in the country's security threats.

Social media, he pointed out, has become a platform used to divide unity among races, causing the people to be concerned and fearful, adding that this is being done to cause instability towards the current government.

"To tackle these threats, a policy that is holistic must be put in place, including setting up strategic engagements on a global level.

"The security and public order policy that is launched today is aimed at maintaining Malaysia's position as a sovereign, peaceful and prosperous country, and respected in the eyes of the world, with the people united and able to defend the country's interests," he



Law and order: Dr Mahathir launching the Security and Public Order Policy at the Home Ministry in Putrajaya. Looking on are Muhyiddin (left) and Alwi.

said at the launch yesterday

The Prime Minister said amid lack of assets and abilities, security and enforcement agencies should change their approach from traditional to that based on Industrial Revolution 4.0 technologies.

He said by doing this, including developing human capital to become more competent to face complex challenges, they can

improve service delivery and protect the country and people from threats better.

"The use of artificial intelligence, robotic automation, cloud computing and internet of things, costs to look after security and public order can be reduced.

"At the same time, this can also improve the efficiency of security personnel," he explained.

Post 14th General Election required new strategies in the aspect of security, said Dr Mahathir, adding that several laws related to security and public order have been revisited.

They include Sedition Act, Prevention of Crime Act, Printing Presses and Publications Act, Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, Prevention of Terrorism Act and Peaceful Assembly Act.

"The security and public order policy covers all aspects, including the protection of the Constitution and religious institutions, strengthening border security, the war on drugs and protection of the country's important assets and targets.

"With this policy, I hope the issue of overlapping policies will be re-coordinated. I believe this policy clearly shows the need for solid cooperation and commitment from all levels of society," said Dr Mahathir.

Also present were Home Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Alwi Ibrahim and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador.

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