

## MULTILATERALISM UNDER THREAT

# 'POWERFUL NATIONS IMPOSING THEIR WILL'

They often violate international norms UN resolutions, says Dr Mahathir

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**M**ALAYSIA has expressed concern over how multilateralism is increasingly under threat, with powerful countries imposing their will on others, often times in violation of international agreements and even United Nations resolutions.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, speaking at the launch of the Foreign Policy Framework of the New Malaysia, said the developments in Palestine, as well as that in Jammu and Kashmir, were only some of the instances.

Similar trends, he said, could

also be observed on the trade and economic fronts.

"There are powerful countries imposing unilateral sanctions, not respecting trade agreements and blatantly disregarding multilateral frameworks.

"These sanctions affect not only the particular country singled out, but other countries, too. There is no equity here."

The rich and the powerful, he said, would take what they wanted but the poor and weak would yield what they must.

"Malaysia will submit what it must, but it will be under open protest."

He said Malaysia believed in maintaining friendly relations with all countries and peaceful resolution of disputes based on international laws and norms.

Despite that, he said Malaysia reserved the right to express its opinion and, if necessary, its protests against injustices, oppression and other crimes against humanity committed by any nation.

He said Malaysia had never shied away from what it believed to be a responsibility

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**TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD**  
Prime minister



## PRAYERS FOR OUR HEROES

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah reciting the Yasin at the Majlis Bacaan Yasin, Tahlil dan Doa Selamat event in conjunction with the 2019 National Warriors' Day at the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu. PIC BY HAFIZ SOHAIMI

and commitment to mankind.

On the Foreign Policy Framework of the New Malaysia, he said it captured the essence of the foreign policy direction of the current administration.

"More importantly, it also captures the salient issues that I raised in my speech at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly last year.

"Essentially, the basic elements of our foreign policy remain unchanged. Malaysia continues to pursue an independent, principled and pragmatic foreign policy, founded on the values of peace, humanity, justice, and equality."

What is changing, he said, was the way Malaysia approached certain issues affecting its interests.

"Hence, the overarching theme of this framework is 'Change in Continuity'. This will be the direction of the implementation of our foreign policy.

"We are living in a world where changes take place at a rapid pace. These changes bring both challenges and opportunities. It is, therefore, only logical that Malaysia does not stick to traditional methods of engagement and instead proactively seek to explore new approaches."

The framework will guide Malaysia in the conduct of its foreign policy by taking the following approaches:

**TO** participate actively in discussions at various international fora where Malaysia is already a member;

**TO** influence decision-making

processes at various international fora where Malaysia is not a member; and,

**TO** shape the discourse on emerging issues such as Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) and the blue economy.

Describing the framework as a "living document", Dr Mahathir said while the realm of foreign policy was in the international sphere, it could not be detached from the domestic realities.

"Simply put, foreign policy begins at home. In this regard, foreign policy cannot be effective if it contradicts the expectations and realities of the domestic environment," he said.

He stressed the importance of inter-agency cooperation in implementing policies formulated by the government.