

Transparency in a government has its limits, says Dr M
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KUALA LUMPUR: There should be limits to transparency in a government, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, who spoke at the 26th Asia-Pacific Roundtable here yesterday, told reporters after his session that transparency by governments was a "new concept".

"There are certain things you just cannot tell people until the right time," he said, adding that leakages of certain information could adversely affect the implementation of government policies.

He said if governments really wanted to be transparent, they should invite the public to listen in to Cabinet meetings.

During his presentation titled *Governance In Asia: What's Best and What Works*, Dr Mahathir said absolute democracy that came with a lot of freedom could become destructive.

"Today's democracy is not democratic as it is ruled by the minority. The minority is so powerful that the majority gives in," said Dr Mahathir, adding that sometimes the situation could become violent.

Given the current political scenario, he said governments had to acquire new skills to manage their countries.

The three-day conference was jointly organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia and Asean-Institutes of Strategic and International Studies.

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