

Settle Conflicts Peacefully, Tun M Tells Nations
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged countries to settle conflicts between them through negotiation, arbitration and the legal process instead of through war.

He said while each country has its own conflict with other countries, war is not a solution as it would not promote economic growth.

"Unlike the other things that can contribute to the nation, when you buy a weapon, if you have to use it then it is terrible for you but if you do not use it it's a waste of money," Dr Mahathir said in his special address at the closing ceremony of the 3rd World Chinese Economic Forum in Seri Kembangan near here Friday.

In relations between countries, there is no need to think about confrontation, war or testing your own strength to see who can kill the most number of people, he added.

Dr Mahathir cited Malaysia's settling of disputes with neighbouring Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore at the World Court, with no resulting war.

On China's rise to become the world's second biggest economy, Dr Mahathir said the republic is not a potential enemy, adding although it is common for a rich country to strengthen its military power, other countries should not take it as a threat.

"I'm not afraid of China becoming a great military power but I look on China as a great economic power. If the country is rich, of course it needs to protect itself," he said.

Instead of viewing China as a potential enemy, it is better to think of how to benefit from it, he said.

"If they are rich, we see a lot of Chinese coming here as tourists and spending a lot of money here, and this is good. If you look at a country as a potential enemy, then they have already become your current enemy," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that it is important to help neighbouring countries prosper as they would benefit us in the future.

"Let's look at East and West, Europe and America, China and the rest of the world in a positive way. Malaysia needs prosperous neighbours, when they are prosperous they will give us fewer problems," he said.

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