

Better to detain people than kill them with drones, says Dr M
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24, 2014: Joking that the best way to handle a crisis is to line-up dissenters against a wall and shoot them, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he chose to address them systematically instead. Speaking at the CEO 2014 forum titled "Surviving the next global financial crisis" today at Berjaya Convention Centre, Dr Mahathir remarked that the use of the now defunct Internal Security Act (ISA) was not as bad as killing people with drones. In what appeared as a swipe against the United States, the former premier said that killing people was worst than detaining people under ISA. "I think killing someone is worse than detaining and keeping all our opponents in jail," he said, adding that he was commenting based on what people had said to him. "We only detained people under the ISA and they're still alive," he said. "But today people are passing judgement on absentee criminals and decide they should be killed or executed. You can send drones and kill people. I think that's worse than just detaining," Dr Mahathir added.

Meanwhile, the former prime minister said that good leadership is when one is least popular but extremely knowledgeable and has deep understanding of finance and economics. "Good leaders are those who manage crisis well and is determined and is not popular with certain people. Not leaders who are dumb or who are good at being popular." Later, when told by reporters on a news report that DAP's Lim Lip Eng had filed a report against him for uttering seditious remarks during the last general election, Dr Mahathir said he expected many to condemn him since he is a politician.

"I can quote many more extreme statements by everybody, but I don't want to do that. "I'm an ordinary citizen now and if I'm supposed to be arrested under the law then go ahead." The Segambut member of Parliament had filed a report against Dr Mahathir and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak after the Home Ministry had pledged that police reports on sedition would be investigated within a day. The report claimed that Dr Mahathir had uttered seditious remarks against DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang during the campaigning period in last year's general election.

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