

Dr Mahathir Says World Safety Deteriorating

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HARARE -- Visiting former Malaysian prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Tuesday world safety has worsened judging by the increasing number of bombings and terrorist cases across the globe. Dr Mahathir said this in an interview with reporters soon after meeting Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe at State House.

"The world is still not safe today, in fact it is getting worse. For example, travellers are no longer safe because of terrorism while in different places such as America, bombings continue to occur." He condemned the unipolar world now existing in world politics, saying it was an unfortunate phenomenon that other countries in the world could not tackle.

"It's a bad thing that is happening but unfortunately we cannot opt for the other side," he said. Meanwhile, he described Zimbabwe as a rich nation with great potential for development. He also spoke out in support of the government's land reform programme that has seen thousands of landless blacks being given land.

"Zimbabwe is now independent and the whites should know that what they had during the colonial period, they cannot have now," he said.

The renowned world leader was scheduled to deliver a lecture at a workshop on Civil Service Reform and also tour the country's biggest milk processor, Dairibord Zimbabwe Limited, later in the day. He leaves Wednesday after a three-day official visit en route to Lesotho to attend the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID), a forum established to discuss various issues affecting the region and the way forward.

Dr Mahathir retired as the Malaysian prime minister in October 2003 after 22 years at the helm and was replaced by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Since his retirement, he has spent most of his time travelling and delivering speeches. He is accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Source: <http://www.bernama.com>