

Tajuk : Dr M warns of interfering foreign powers

Dr M warns of interfering foreign powers

BY GOH PEI PEI

KOTA SAMARAHAN: If there are groups of people supporting a foreign power, then their country is not an independent nation anymore because they allow the foreign power to interfere in the affairs of their country, and this can soon lead to a regime change in the country.

This was stated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his lecture at the "National Convention on Patriotism and Politics: The True Direction" at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) here yesterday.

"Ages ago, patriotism was simple. People had very strong patriotism and loyalty to the country and they were willing to defend the country with their lives.

"However, once democracy had been practised for some time, the people started to confuse between patriotism and loyalty towards the country and the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir explained that this confusion arose because the party that formed the government might not be the party for the people to support.

"People don't support the government that doesn't have the same ideology as theirs, and not because they are not loyal to country," he pointed.

Therefore, he said, it was important to differentiate loyalty towards the country and the government. Otherwise, once someone was confused with loyalty, they might do something they should not due to ideological factors.

"Foreign powers that provide the same ideology with the people



TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad delivering his lecture at the convention at UNIMAS. PHOTO: RAMIDI SUBARI (Q&A session with Dr M on Page 3)

will come and interfere, and soon they will work together with the people to change the government," he warned.

Dr Mahathir stressed that people who worked with the foreign powers had their own intention, wishing for a better government with similar ideology.

"However, the foreign powers won't have the same intention as they only wish to promote their own positions in the country while those who support them will be their tools in making a regime change in a country.

"In this case, people should think deeply when involve in politics as it is sometimes very confusing. We need to be mature in our thoughts and emphasise

the advantages for the country," he said.

"Be very careful and do not listen or be persuaded by suggestions and fomentations allowing a regime change in the country by foreign powers that do not have good intentions," he advised.

Dr Mahathir said foreign powers were always very smart as they do not force people to accept them, but would slowly sow the seeds in the minds of the people.

He expressed his gladness that with the intelligence of Malaysians, the country had remained peaceful and people had been living in harmony since the country gained independence almost 50 years ago.