

# Not right to give countries veto power in UN's Security Council

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Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says UN's ineffectiveness in international diplomacy is due to the fact that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have veto powers in the council. — TRP pic by Azrol Ali

**By Hanis Zainal**

**KUALA LUMPUR, April 30:**

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad feels that the United Nations (UN) in its present state is no longer an effective tool for international diplomacy.

Dr Mahathir stated that UN's ineffectiveness in international diplomacy was due to the fact that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Russia and France have veto powers in the council.

"Great powers do not take kindly to small countries saying anything against them.

"The permanent members control the UN. They do not care about the opinions of the other 190 countries. If any one of them is against (a resolution), then the other 190 countries cannot do anything."

Dr Mahathir expressed his view that the power of veto that the five permanent members had in the UN Security Council meant that these countries could ignore the wishes and opinions of other countries.

"If you do not accept democracy, democracy will come and kill you," he joked, referring to the

conflicts of the 21st century.

“It is a great flaw to give a country veto rights (in the Security Council).”

He, however, commended the humanitarian missions that the UN had done, such as the programmes conducted by the World Health Organisation.

Dr Mahathir was speaking after launching *A UN Chronicle*, a book written by one of Malaysia’s diplomats, Tan Sri Razali Ismail and co-authored by Sharifah Shifa al-Attas.

*A UN Chronicle* is a first-person account of Razali’s tenure as the country’s Permanent Representative to the UN office in New York from 1988 to 1998 and the narrative spills into his time as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to Myanmar between 2000 and 2005.

“I hope that this chronicle will be applicable in the days ahead for Wisma Putra and for Malaysia’s young diplomats,” said Razali of his book.

He agreed with Dr Mahathir’s views of the current state of the UN, likening the organisation to Maurice Ravel’s 1928 orchestral piece *Boléro*.

“The piece has different tempos, alternating between fast and slow, but it does not come to a conclusion. That is how the UN is,” he said jokingly.

Razali’s book, published by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, can be purchased at a retail price of RM100.

How does this story make you feel?

- **100%** Happy
- **0%** Sad
- **0%** Angry
- **0%** Shocked
- **0%** Nothing