

# Why we are beating the Reds — Dr M

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ALOR STAR, Sun. — The Government has arrested hundreds of communist elements and this has brought peace and harmony throughout the country, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We have enough manpower and equipment to wipe out the communist terrorists. Our soldiers' morale is high and they are capable of defending the country," he told an Umno dialogue session at Sungel Tiang, 28 miles from here.

"Thailand has invited our soldiers to fight the communist terrorists in Thai territory because our soldiers are good and sure of success.

"The terrorists dare not face our forces. They can only lay booby traps in the jungle."

Dr Mahathir praised the bravery of an army sergeant who was the victim of a recent booby trap.

He said he was told that although the sergeant was seriously injured he asked his colleagues in the patrol to look for other booby traps before helping him.

This showed that the sergeant was more concerned of others than for himself, he said. The people can rest assured that this type of soldier can definitely defend the country.

He said that in order to maintain peace and harmony, policemen had been ordered to shoot at anyone carrying firearms.

Dr Mahathir also said the rural people should not envy the rich because it was the rich who paid the most taxes to the Government.

He said the Government was taxing the rich up to 50 per cent of their income. With this money, the Government can spend on development projects for the rural poor.

Addressing an Umno rally in Guar Chempedak, 30 miles from here, Dr Mahathir said Umno must be strong and lasting.

He said the younger group must first know the aspirations of Umno before taking over the party's leadership.

On democracy, he said in some countries the system could not work because they were ruled by a minority Government comprising many parties.

But in Malaysia, democracy could work well because it was ruled by a majority coalition Government, he said.