

That poison pen letter is back in circulation

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Prime Minister said today that a poison pen letter written by a group of Chinese has now been translated and widely distributed among Malays to arouse hatred and racial sentiments between the two races in the country.

He said the letter, which called for all Chinese to unite to seize power for themselves and overthrow the coalition government, has fallen into the hands of Malays who have made a translation from the original English and circulated it widely in

a chain-letter style.

The letter, which first appeared during the 1978 general election, has since been banned, but this has not stopped its circulation. No one has been arrested.

92
Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said more issues have been added to the original letter, including the Merdeka University and second Deputy Prime Minister debate.

He said the letter has also been sent to Malaysian students overseas and in the country to create confusion and misunderstanding among the students and other Malays.

The letter, he said, is aimed at generating hatred toward the present coalition Government. "We know their political aim — don't support any party that works together with all races."

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He warned that the police would take stern action against any group found distributing the letter.

He said the Government has not been able to determine who first issued it "but we're suspicious that it was written by a group merely out to create chaos, arouse racial sentiments and to defeat a party that works together with other races."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he has also received the letter several times, the original and the new edition with the added issues.

As the letter is being distributed with the instruction to make 10 copies to send to 10 different persons, new issues and instructions are added on by others.

He urged all those in possession of the letter to surrender it to the police.