

Dr M exposes acts of dissident group

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KOTA BARU, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today exposed the activities of a certain group which was sowing seeds of discontent among government servants and Armed Forces personnel.

The Prime Minister said: "Such activities, if left unchecked, would lead to chaos in the country. They are doing this in an effort to disrupt the Government."

He was speaking at a tea-party gathering at the Palm Manor, the residence of Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah here.

Dr Mahathir said the group claimed that government servants and Armed Forces personnel were not being paid sufficiently.

The Prime Minister

By ARIFFIN OMAR and SYED ABU BAKAR

called on the component parties of the Barisan Nasional to close ranks to overcome such dirty tactics by this group.

He said that it was important for component parties of the Barisan to strengthen themselves so that the party could overcome the various problems in the country.

He added that the Barisan Nasional was a unique party in the sense that it was a group which had divergent ideas but had reached an understanding in the interests of the nation.

"There is no parallel party anywhere in the world," the Prime Minister added.

He warned that the Barisan should not be complacent as the op-

position parties were only waiting for the component parties to abandon their co-operation so that they could overwhelm the Government.

Earlier he urged the Barisan Nasional, especially Umno, to bring those who had been influenced by irresponsible religious propaganda "back to the right path".

He said some people who had been given the power to rule in the past had misused their power and tried to misguide the people on religious matters.

The Prime Minister was addressing more than 20,000 Barisan Nasional leaders and supporters at the Pengkalan Chepa Airport this morning.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Trade and Industries Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, and other VIPs and Government officers, arrived here this morning for a two-day State visit.

The Prime Minister said Kelantan had not seen any progress for 18 years under the former Government.

He said the people of Kelantan now wanted the State to progress.

Criticism

"In the past, there were very few opportunities for the people of Kelantan to improve themselves economically," he said.

Consequently, he added, the people migrated to other States and to Singapore in search of greener pastures.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional State Government was determined to develop Kelantan so that those who had migrated could return and those who had remained in Kelantan could find more opportunities here.

He said certain elements had criticised Umno for co-operating with non-Muslims.

"But co-operation between Muslims and non-Muslims had taken place since the early days of Islam. What is important is that the rights of the

Muslims are safeguarded," he said.

The Prime Minister said that as a result of that co-operation, the Barisan Nasional had been able to bring considerable development to the country. This had benefited even those who had opposed the Government.

The Prime Minister was later given a briefing by Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamed Yaacob in the State Operations Room at the State Secretariat.

After the briefing, he told State Executive Council members and heads of department that they should be conversant with the decisions and directives of the Federal Government to ensure the successful implementation of development programmes.

He said they should not rely on "guesswork" in carrying out the decisions of the Federal Government.

He added that those State Executive Council members responsible for carrying out the various projects should know the background of the projects to avoid any misinterpretation in the implementation of the programmes.

He said the Government needed the co-operation of everyone including State Executive Council members and Government officers to improve the Government machinery.

"The State Executive Council members should make frequent visits to check on the progress of the various projects to ensure that they are completed according to schedule."