

Dr M warns detractors

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister today hit out at some individuals who, under cover of their organisations, were condemning and blackmailing the Government by engaging in "smear" campaigns against its policies.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad criticised such individuals whose actions, he added, were being carried out with international support.

He said their aim was to discredit the Govern-

ment policies that had been tailored to meet the wishes of the majority.

He warned that the Government was aware of such activities and would not hesitate to defend its policies.

"They operate under the pretext of representing the minority in the country in their vigorous campaign to discredit Government policies," he told participants of a seminar on *Towards a new economic era* organised by the Federal Territory MCA here.

The Prime Minister warned that the Government would not hesitate

to act against these individuals.

He acknowledged that in a democracy like Malaysia, the people had the right to freedom of speech.

"However, there is a place and time to express their views and they should use the proper channels to put it across to the Government.

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"The Government is willing to hear any grouse or complaint but it cannot let minority wishes go against the wishes of the majority,"

the Prime Minister said.

"While these individuals are viciously criticising Government policies, they set themselves up as permanent presidents of their organisations which run contrary to the democratic principles professed by them," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

He added that democracy could be interpreted in several ways but in this country, it meant the Government of the majority.

He said it was on this basis that the Government could not allow the minority to carry out actions that may hamper the policies of the majority.

"We, likewise, cannot allow the minority to rule the country even if they claim to be brilliant.

"The democratic set-up demands that the course of the country be decided by 'the not-so-brilliant' of the majority," he remarked, drawing laughter from the participants.

The Prime Minister also stressed that it was the responsibility of the majority to ensure that the policies formulated by their elected representatives in Parliament was enforced with will and determination for the betterment of all.