

We'll crush those who try to topple the Government illegally'

Mahathir Warns...

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mo-
hammad said today the Government will not allow anyone to overthrow it through unlawful means.**

Addressing a gathering of over 40,000 people at the Jalan Raja Muda Stadium here in conjunction with his visit to the Federal Territory, the Prime Minister said only the people could remove the Government through the provisions of laws existing in the country.

"However, if there are people who would try to topple the Government through illegal means, we will stop them. We will crush them," he said to the approving cheers and applause from the gathering.

He said if the people no longer wanted the present administration, they

could remove it in accordance with the laws of the country.

He thanked all quarters concerned including Federal Territory residents for their support for the Government which had made possible for the constitutional amendment issue to be resolved.

"I would like to take this opportunity to pledge to do my best to serve the interests of the people," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that with continued support, the Government resolved to do more for the benefit and progress of the people through a just system of administration.

What was required now was for the people to be also willing to make sacrifices in building a disciplined, united Society with a capacity for hard work and acquisition of new skills.

These qualities were needed in order to face the rapid changes in the country.

Earlier, on arrival at the stadium, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was welcomed by a *kompang* group and a lion dance.

Shouts of "Mahathir, Mahathir" rang out as the Prime Minister entered the stadium accompanied by Umno vice-president Encik Ghafar Baba and other senior party officials.

Speaking of the need to make sacrifices, the Prime Minister said the people had responded well as shown during the recent constitutional crisis.

"Especially for us Muslims, Islam urges us to make sacrifices as it will be rewarded.

"We (all Malaysians), have suffered the last three years as a result of the world economic slowdown. However, because we remained resilient we are now standing to benefit.

"Things are looking up now with the palm oil price going up from \$800 a ton to \$1,900.

"Hopefully, in 1984 the Government will have more money to spend for the benefit of the people," he said to a round of applause from the crowd.

The Government; he said, was a government of the people and as such each depended on the other. There must, therefore, be close inter-relationship between the two. This was the path to prosperity.

The amendments to the Constitution, he explained, were a precautionary step that the Government considered necessary so that no one held absolute power.

"When we achieved independence we wanted a democracy and a constitutional monarch.

"In a Parliamentary democracy the Prime Minister does not inherit his position but earns it.

"This means that if the people do not want him, they can remove him.

"Our democratic system ensures that no one has absolute power. And in our system the monarchs must also uphold the Constitution," the Prime Minister said.

"No one can deny that since achieving independence the leaders have governed in accordance with democratic principles.

"The problem over the constitutional amendments is, in fact, a small problem compared with the separation of Singapore from Malaysia.

That issue, however, was brought to the people.

The Prime Minister also hit out at some quarters who had "fished in troubled waters" during the four-month impasse over the constitutional amendments.

"These people exaggerated the issue and spread

rumours that the Government was out to seize power that belonged to others.

"Because of this the people were confused and rallies were held purportedly in support of the Rulers.

"But they forgot that the Government also supports the Rulers," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Thus, the Government was forced to go to the people and explain to them the true picture. It was with the support of the people that the Government was able to resolve the issue amicably.

"We are not greedy. We are not out to grab power by foul means. We have given an Undertaking that we will make suitable changes to the amendments in accordance with the wishes of the Rulers," he said.