

# We are not afraid of bombs: Dr M

By SYED ABU BAKAR

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hit out at elements who threatened to throw bombs and use other weapons to try to dissuade the people from turning out to receive him at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport this morning.

Speaking before thousands of supporters at the airport, soon after his arrival at 9.25am today, he said: "I have been informed that certain elements have warned that those who gather here today would meet with great misfortune."

These elements threatened to use bombs and other weapons against those who turned out to receive him, he disclosed.

Dr Mahathir said the threat did not frighten him or the thousands who turned out today.

"We are not afraid and we will 'ganyang' (suppress) them," he told the cheering crowd.

Kelantanese are well-known for their resilience and they are not afraid of such threats, he said.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived at the airport in the executive jet, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, was received by Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamad Yaacob, Deputy Menteri Besar Haji Arifin Said, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen and other VIPs.

The Prime Minister said Umno and the Barisan

Nasional would continue to struggle through be with his brother who was democratic means to undergo treatment for an illness and could not attend the gathering.

He pointed out that this "I know why Tengku Razaleigh could not be present here today. He is with his Umno and the BN Government to solve all problems which confronted them."

He reminded the people not to be influenced by elements who were waiting for an opportunity to wrest power from the Government, especially in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said Umno and the Government would continue to oppose such elements who should not be allowed to wrest power in any State.

"We should not allow even one State, except in Sabah and Sarawak, to be in hands other than Umno's."

He urged Umno members and supporters to close ranks to maintain their strength.

"The 1.5 million Umno members must remain united and must continue to strive for the country."

Dr Mahathir told the people that Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's absence from the reception committee should not be misinterpreted.

Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamad, in his welcoming speech, had said that Tengku

Razaleigh was in England to undergo treatment for an illness and could not attend the gathering.

"Let there be no misinterpretation on this," he warned.

The Umno president said that he was in Kelantan with colleagues in Umno and other BN component parties who had struggled with him. The Prime Minister said the prices of Malaysian goods had risen and the profits from the sale of the goods would be used for the benefit of the people.

He was later briefed on the \$5.7 million Kampung Kangdis tobacco growing project for fishermen who turned to farming, by the Farmers' Organisation Authority (FOA) director, Enik Mohamad Ismail.

Datin Seri Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah visited a handicraft centre at Bachok while Dr Mahathir was being briefed.