

# Dr M raps DAP for exploiting racial issues

SHAH ALAM, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took the DAP to task today for accusing the Government of suppressing the rights of a particular race when carrying out development.

For example, the Prime Minister said, the proposal to develop a certain area in Malacca was criticised by the DAP although the Government did not have any intention of suppressing the rights of any race.

"When we make an announcement to carry out development anywhere, they are quick in making their own interpretation, as if the Government is oppressing a particular race," Dr Mahathir told about 5,000 people who lined up to welcome him on his two-day visit to Selangor.

Dr Mahathir's remarks were apparently in response to what appeared to be DAP's deliberate attempt to politicise the Bukit China and the Papanradio-active dump issues. This is his first public comment on the two issues.

He said development in any area was normal but issues relating to it were unfortunately fanned into racial controversies.

Regretting their habit of going all out to look for issues that could be exploited to destroy the nation, he said this only proved the existence of extremist groups with extremist thinking that rejected the spirit of compromise.

## UNITY

The Barisan Nasional chairman urged all Barisan component parties not to follow after the opposition party.

"There are among us those who are also dragged into the excitement, and into the line of thinking subscribed by the DAP. This can jeopardise the unity prevailing among Barisan Nasional members," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Barisan component parties should be wary of groups like the DAP which "always blew up small issues into racial issues to give the impression that nothing done by the Government had any benefit."

"Unity does exist in the Barisan Nasional, and any problem faced can be overcome through discussions in a peaceful and amicable manner free from emotionalism," he said.

He alleged that the DAP championed issues not for the benefit of any race or for the country but solely to find ways to bring about disunity in the Barisan.

The DAP wished for Umno, MCA and MIC to fall out among themselves so that the support of various races for the Barisan would be eroded, paving the way for take-over by the opposition party, Dr Mahathir said.

"We have noticed how communalism had brought disaster in a south Asian country recently," he said.

Earlier as the Prime Minister arrived at the State Secretariat, there were shouts of "Long live Mahathir" by the crowd, which included members of the Barisan component parties.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, was met on arrival by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Ali and other State dignitaries. — Bernama.