

PM: Group out to sow hatred between races

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TANAH MERAH, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today spoke of attempts by a certain group to sow hatred between the races in the country.

One of the means employed by this group is the circulation of poison-pen letters purportedly by one racial group containing allegations against another group.

The members of this group distributed letters purportedly from one Chinese to another Chinese, urging certain action to be taken.

He said one such letter stated that the Chinese were trying to take certain steps to oppose the Malays.

Speaking to reporters after he opened the Tanah Merah Umno Building, he said there was such a letter which was purportedly written by a Chinese but which was actually written by a Malay.

"The letter said that the Chinese were planning to take certain steps against the Malays."

He pointed out that most of the letters were received by the Malays but they should be sent only to the Chinese if they were actually written by the Chinese.

He said the Government would not hesitate to ban the letter if it posed a security threat to the country.

"But if we find that the people do not take the letters seriously, no such steps would be taken."

He said the Malays who received the letter made cyclostyled copies of it and distributed them to other Malays.

The Prime Minister said he does not believe

the letters are being distributed by subversive elements but by people who are jealous of the unity among the various races in the country.

These people hoped that through this tactic the Chinese would stop supporting the Barisan Nasional and weaken the party.

Their hope is that the Malays will not vote for Chinese candidates standing on Barisan Nasional tickets in the coming elections.

He said Umno members who received the letters had shown them to him and they had seemed distressed at the contents.

Later in Pasir Mas, Dr Mahathir said the Government has carried out various development projects to ensure that the people prospered.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was always looking into ways of improving the livelihood of the people.

Speaking to more than 5,000 supporters at a public gathering at Kampung Gutong, he said efforts were being made to restructure all traditional villages in the State.