

# SECRECY'S REASONS

Sometimes a  
must for sake  
of justice: Dr M

By KALIMULLAH HASSAN (P)

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Government is open-minded but would not divulge secrets "just for the sake of divulging" them.**

"We do not hide unless we have reasons (to do so) and are taking steps to overcome a certain problem," he said. "When it is no longer a problem, we will reveal everything."

Dr Mahathir was responding to former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn's call to the Government to be more "open" in matters of national interest.

"I do not see what is not open now," said Dr Mahathir after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council. "In any Government, certain things have to be kept secret. The same applies to our country."

And, he added, even if some information was not listed as secret there was no reason why the Government would have to disclose it if it jeopardised government efforts to see justice done.

"We cannot divulge for the sake of divulging," he said. "We do not want to be trapped like certain Western countries which reveal everything and finally find that their actions work against them. This we will not do here."

On Tuesday, Tun Hussein, in apparent reference to the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance loans affair, said the Government was too reluctant to impart information.

He said the people would lose confidence in the Government if they thought information was being deliberately withheld. Tun Hussein said the people were educated enough to form their own opinions.