

# Govt to blacklist those who make use of Rulers

THE Government will blacklist anyone who makes use of the Rulers to further his own business interests and his applications for government tenders or contracts will not be considered.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government would also expose them so the people can judge for themselves who poses a threat to the system of a constitutional monarchy.

Dr Mahathir said that these people were taking advantage of the Government's respect for the

Rulers and the system.

"They think they will also enjoy the same protection if they were to get the Rulers involved in their business activities."

Dr Mahathir added that he did not want the people to question the system of constitutional monarchy which Umno upholds.

"I do not want anyone to challenge it simply because of the interests of a group of greedy people."

He said the Umno delegates and the Government had tried to con-

ceal the activities of these people to protect the good name of the Rulers.

However, he added, their activities were gradually becoming known to the rakyat.

He said they had embarked on business ventures to win over the Rulers and tried to include them in their projects.

They not only hoped to gain the influence of the authorities but also to compete successfully with other businessmen, especially bumiputras, Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno had chosen to adopt the constitutional monarchy because the Rulers had supported the nationalist movement when the people were fighting for independence.

Therefore, there was no reason for the people to choose a republican government in which the president is the head of state or any other form of government, he said.

During a tea break in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir described as "serious" the incidence of Rulers

being made use of by "big businessmen" for financial gain.

"I brought up the matter today because it has become serious. This has been going on for some time and it is increasing steadily," he told reporters.

Dr Mahathir said he was forced to give the "open warning" to ensure the people's continued support and respect for the constitutional monarchy system.

He added that the Rulers were aware of the Government's aim and its duty to protect the system.

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