

I don't favour anyone, says PM

30 SEP 1985

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has denied allegations that certain groups of people close to Cabinet Ministers were favoured when they applied for government contracts or licences.

He said that Ministers had to rectify wrongs in the administration.

"It is true that we are besieged by appeals from individuals for help.

"In fact I am often handed an envelope listing all sorts of requests and help from the people every time I visit a rural area," he said.

"I wish I could tell

members of the public not to see me or my Ministers.

"But then I won't be discharging my responsibilities if I were to do that," he added.

Dr Mahathir chided a delegate who wanted to know who the contractor for the new Umno complex was.

He said it did not mean that if a non-Malay contractor was given the job, the building would lose its "Malayness."

The building was designed by a Malay architect and the workers who built it were Malays, he

said.

It did not mean if there were no Malay contractors, there should not be any buildings in the country. The non-Malays could not be excluded in any such ventures, he said.

"There are many buildings belonging to Umno in other States built by non-Malay contractors. Is it wrong or does it mean that the buildings have lost the Malay identity?" he asked.

Members should not bring up such petty issues because of ulterior motives, Dr Mahathir said.