

PM on type of critics needed

NST 16 MAR 1985

KANGAR, Fri. — Malaysia needs a healthy opposition but this is not provided by the present opposition parties in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

They were only interested in exploiting racial

and religious sentiments for their own political ends without considering the consequences.

Speaking at a gathering of about 1,000 leaders from the component parties in Barisan Nasional and State Government officials at the State guest house here last night, he said the Government will

not tolerate such politicians.

"We do need opposition which can advise the Government and make criticisms that will keep us on the right track in fulfilling our responsibilities to the people.

"Unfortunately, what we have here are people who are only out to find

fault with the Government.

"If they were responsible people, they should stop making baseless accusations and criticisms but instead make constructive suggestions and other contributions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said opposition members should not fish for support by using racial and religious issues because these are highly sensitive issues.

Dr Mahathir was happy to note that the people were not responding to these parties and instead chose to continue to support the Government.

Meeting

Later, Dr Mahathir expressed satisfaction with the political situation in Perlis, particularly within Umno.

"There does not seem to be any problem in the party," he said after the dinner.

He said that the expected contest for the post of head, deputy head, vice-head and other important posts at the Kangar Umno division delegates meeting to be held soon would not arise.

Based on reports he received while in Perlis, all problems in the Kangar division had been resolved and the situation was back to normal, he said.

Menteri Besar Datuk Ali Haji Ahmad, who is also the head of the Kangar division, said he welcomed the statement by Dr Mahathir.

"I stand by my decision to seek re-election for the post of divisional head at the coming meeting," he said.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, the deputy head of the division, said he also stood by his decision not to contest against Datuk Ali for the post of divisional head.