

Memali 'has set a bad example'

THE police had to take stern action during the Memali incident, otherwise other groups might also want to challenge their authority, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Replying to points raised during the debate on the Royal Address, he said during the Memali incident, the police were not free to act for fear that they would hurt innocent people.

He said there were certain groups which felt

that if they opposed the police in large numbers, the police would not take action for fear of injuring them and there is a possibility that they may attempt to repeat this.

"If the police were to feel that whatever actions they took were wrong and that they would be labelled stern, then they would no longer be effective as security agents.

"Then people in certain places will no longer feel safe and it is possible that

gangsters may reign like in the old days.

"This is the danger of the Memali incident. A bad example has been set and if we do not appreciate the police force, their morale will be weakened," he said.

The fanatical group in the incident equipped themselves with weapons not used in Malaysia before such as "Molotov cocktail," arrow bombs and firebrands.

They used young and old women and children as shields for cowardly men. These women and children were trained to protect themselves from the various weapons that the police used.

The group deluded themselves into believing

that they had supernatural powers.

Dr Mahathir said if the BMF scandal was a big cheating case, the Memali incident exposed a crime which was dangerous to the nation.

He told Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail (BN - Tanjung Karang) who had urged the Government to check missionaries who preached deviationist teachings, that it was difficult to control entry of such people because they did not enter the country as "missionaries."

He said State Religious Departments had enough power to check the spread of deviationist teachings and take action against anyone caught spreading such teachings.