

PRIORITY FOR BN AREAS: PM

The Opposition will misuse the funds, he says

MUAR, Mon. — The Government is not keen on providing allocations for development in Opposition-held constituencies because the opposition parties would use the funds as "capital to get popular," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We won't help them to get popular. We would rather help a Barisan Nasional man get popular," the Prime Minister and Barisan chairman said at a dialogue with the Chinese community in Muar this evening.

He said if the constituents had a problem, they could voice it through their elected representatives who would channel it to him for action.

"I am more prone to listen to appeals from a Barisan elected representative than an Opposition man. If an Opposition man makes an appeal, *susah saya nak dengar*."

"It is not because I don't want to hear (an opposition man's appeals) but the Opposition will use the money for their own political ends," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was the Barisan's intention to help all races but

sometimes, because of lack of money, some areas are left out.

"It takes time. We cannot help everyone at the same time. But we will view all appeals made through the *Wakil Rakyat*."

He said he could not visit "every nook and corner" of the country so the people should use their Assemblymen or MPs as "postmen" to channel their views to him.

"If you don't get what you asked for, don't say we are unfair. We will give what we can," he said.

He added that the Government wanted development because this would encourage economic activi-

ties which would eventually benefit everyone.

Earlier, speaking to a gathering at the Dewan Jubli Intan, Dr Mahathir criticised the DAP and PAS which "are bent on destroying racial harmony in the country."

He said PAS was only interested in representing the Malays and DAP, the Chinese.

The Barisan on the other hand comprised members from all ethnic backgrounds and "even the smallest community has a voice in the Barisan councils," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the PAS-led "seven-hour" opposition pact was a

marriage of convenience for the general election. (The opposition pact among five parties was formed after a seven-hour meeting at PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur).

He said after the election, the five would start fighting each other. "Already they are fighting," he said.

On the DAP, he said the party was only interested in criticising the Barisan and nothing that the coalition did was ever right.

"We formed the Alliance for the sake of racial harmony. We have now expanded to become the Barisan. No race is ignored at either State or Federal level.

"The various races do have problems with each other. But how do we solve it? Through war? By using bombs?"

"We do it through consultations, through meetings and the proper atmosphere leads to understanding and a solution to the problem."

"The DAP just shouts and screams. We cannot solve our problems that way. If people shout at me, I won't do what they tell me to do even though this may be good."

"In the Barisan, problems are solved amicably through discussions and consensus in the Exco at State level and Cabinet at Federal level."

Also present were Johore Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad and a large number of Barisan candidates who are contesting the election for the first time.