

PM warns against elitist group

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Plan to wrest power from the people

BALING, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said a small group of intellectuals is claiming to be the voice of the masses.

He warned that the elitist group, which numbered between 200 and 300 people, would wrest power from the people if given the chance.

The people should never allow their rights to elect the Government of their choice to be usurped by this group, he said.

He said the group had also tried to make use of leaders and former leaders for their own interests.

Dr Mahathir said this at the launching of the smallholders' mini-estate project in Kampung Sadek, Kupang, near here.

Land and Regional Development Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Depart-

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ment Raja Ariffin Raja Sulaiman were among those present.

More than 5,000 people comprising dignitaries, residents and smallholders from various schemes were on hand to greet the Prime Minister who arrived by helicopter.

Dr Mahathir said there had been legal attempts by the group to subvert the power of the elected representatives.

He said this group considered that the Government could not make laws except with their approval because they were the voice of the masses.

This group also felt that the Government should not consider the views of the people because they said the people did not know anything.

"They consider themselves more powerful than the Government elected by the people and presume to make policies

for the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir challenged them to go to the polls if they were really interested in administering the country.

"However, during the elections, none of them dared to come out for fear that they would lose. They are even reluctant to openly show their support for political parties."

The Prime Minister said the elitist groups were clever at organising seminars, sending memorandums and influencing newspapers and foreign journalists.

"But they are only a small group who are frustrated because they are not able to rule the country."

Dr Mahathir said their views could be considered "but to proclaim that they represent the voice of the majority is the height of arrogance".

He also told the people to be wary of those who discredit Ministers and leaders to make them lose faith in the Government.