

PM to BN parties: Rally behind Govt

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ALOR STAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Barisan Nasional component parties to rally behind the Government in countering allegations by opposition parties and to oppose a group which was attempting to challenge democracy in the country.

He said that an opposition party had alleged that the Government had indulged in corrupt practice while the group had said that the elected Government had no power.

"Unfortunately, Barisan component parties has not done anything to counter these moves."

Addressing representatives of the State Barisan Nasional at the Umno building here today, he said that, in fact, one component party seemed to want the Government to follow the wishes of the opposition party.

He stressed that the Government would not bow to pressure from the opposition party because it had not done anything wrong.

He said that unless Barisan component parties closed ranks and supported the Government fully it would lose power.

Dr Mahathir said that if this happened the national economy too would suffer.

"The economy is recovering slowly but

surely, but this would be disrupted if the country's political stability is undermined."

Dr Mahathir said that there were disagreements among Barisan component parties lately which were blown out of proportion.

This had occurred because instead of solving the issues through the proper channels within the coalition, some component parties had chosen to make public their stand.

"This made it difficult for them to budge

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from their stand or to adopt a give-and-take attitude which is often necessary to solve the problems."

He told the component parties to stop making public statements to solve their problems, especially through the mass media.

Asked by reporters later, Dr Mahathir said that the Barisan would not take disciplinary action against member parties unless absolutely necessary as it preferred to solve all disputes through discussions.