

PM: WE'LL NOT GIVE IN TO 'ELITISTS'

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By K.T. ARASU

Closed-door meeting

JOHORE BARU, Thurs. — The Government will not bow to pressure from "certain opportunist elitist groups" to review the Constitution, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said these groups, which had only about 200 to 300 members, want the Constitution reviewed because they were "jealous" of the Barisan Nasional's ability to secure more than a two-third majority in Parliament.

"The Opposition's election slogan was *Deny the Barisan a two-third majority*. When they failed, their unhappiness with the election result prompted them to launch a campaign to get the Constitution reviewed," he said when opening a community hall in Kampung Pok near here.

Dr Mahathir said the "elitist groups" did not want to see the Barisan get popular support and that their inten-

JOHORE BARU, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held a closed-door meeting tonight with about 100 State Umno leaders at Saujana, the official residence of the Menteri Besar.

Division heads and committee members attended the 90-minute meeting.

Umno sources said among the matters discussed were the dropping of three Ministers and four Deputy Ministers before the May 19 Cabinet reshuffle and the country's political and economic situations.

The meeting was chaired by Menteri Besar and Johore Umno chief Haji Muhyiddin Yassin. — Bernama.

tions were to have "the voice of the minority prevail over that of the majority."

He said that the groups were hoping that the Barisan would be denied a two-third's majority in Parliament and subsequently be burdened with the task of administering the country without popular support.

"These groups are saying that the Constitution should be reviewed as it has not been amended in 30 years. They must realise that the Constitutions of many countries have remained unchanged for hundreds of years," he added.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan chairman, said the groups feel that the Constitution was no longer suitable and "consider it obsolete because it gives due recognition to the voice of the majority."

"These elitist groups wanted the Government to consider only their views and ignore those of the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the groups had also called for the setting up of a commission to review the Constitution but did not state who its members should be.

"I am sure they want the commission to comprise people who think along their lines, like foreign judges." He said these judges would not be familiar with the situation in Malaysia, especially that involving race relations, religion and other factors relevant to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said efforts to amend the Constitution according to the wishes of certain groups could result in chaos. If the Constitution was to be amended according to the wishes of one group, there would certainly be demands from other groups for amendments to suit their intentions, he added.

"If this happens, who is going to be responsible in ensuring which amendment should be made and which should be ignored?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir also said that there should be a check-and-balance "on all three branches of government — the Executive, Legislative and the Judiciary."

"None of the branches should be allowed to function without these checks and balance."