

# Group out to create conflict between army and police: PM

SEREMBAN, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today exposed attempts by certain quarters to create conflict between the police and army.

He said this group had also tried to create a misunderstanding between him and Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Haniff Omar.

The Prime Minister disclosed this when answering questions from Negri Sembilan Umno members at a dialogue.

Participants at the dialogue urged the Government to take firm action against the people who opposed the formation of Umno, spread lies and continued with character assassination of the Prime Minister, Government leaders and party officials.

Dr Mahathir said that as Muslims, "we should be patient (in facing these challenges). But we will act firmly.

"We are aware that an attempt has been made by the other side so that we cannot take legal action against them.

"They have spread stories and lies that I have directed the police to arrest Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah but the IGP supposedly did not agree to the arrest.

"Because of that, the story goes, I had wanted the IGP removed and did not allow him to work anymore.

"This is an attempt to create a misunderstanding between me and the IGP. There is no such directive."

Dr Mahathir said this group

made up such lies to win sympathy and portray him as being cruel in wanting to arrest Tengku Razaleigh.

In addition, they felt that the Government would not arrest them to avoid giving credence to their lies even though they had broken the law.

"This is a step towards breaking the law. But I assure you that anyone who goes against the law will face the consequences of the law.

"I hope they do not think that they are safe from the law."

He also said this group has gone even beyond this.

"There are stories circulating that there are army generals from Kelantan who have given the IGP a warning that if Tengku Razaleigh is arrested the generals will take over the administration of the country ... a coup would then occur."

"These are all wicked lies aimed at causing a conflict between the army and police."

Fortunately our army "is not the type they believe it is," Dr Mahathir said.

"Our army and police are professionals. They will carry out their duties according to the law. But very wicked are these people who are trying to cause a clash between the army and police."

Dr Mahathir added that the IGP had been forced to make a statement that he was not asked to leave by the Prime Minister.

He said the IGP had served for 15 years and was not easily upset to resort to irrational action