

DR M: GROUP INSTIGATING KELANTANESE

KANGAR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that a group of "trouble-makers" is instigating Kelantanese to isolate themselves from other Malaysians.

He said their actions resembled the attempts that PAS had made to declare Kelantan an independent State.

"This group is playing a dangerous game ... they have gone to as far as Pahang to influence Kelantanese settlers of a Felda scheme there.

"They are trying to divide the Kelantanese from the rest of Malaysians," he told a gathering of 20,000 who turned out for the Semarak (*Loyalty with the People*) campaign in Sungai Batu Pahat near here.

"The trouble-makers are trying to split the people and identifying them by the States they come from ... this we must not allow.

"When PAS ruled Kelantan (1959-1978), they tried to separate Kelantan from the then Federated Malay States but failed," he said.

The Prime Minister said PAS even went to court then and claimed that the country's independence was without the consent of Kelantan.

He said PAS wanted to declare Kelantan independent "but, luckily, the High Court judge then ruled that our independence was legal and valid and there was no case to answer."

"But right now, the trouble-makers who have been defeated are trying to stir this up again.

"The Kelantanese are mature and they do not accept this. The Kelantanese have acknowledged they are Malaysians and definitely do not want to get out (of the

"Everybody wants to be with Malaysia ... " he said.

Dr Mahathir said this attempt would never work "although a few settlers might have been influenced."

He said apart from the "trouble-makers," Malaysians were united.

"When PAS assemblymen in Kelantan tried to move a resolution in the State Assembly (vote of no-confidence on the Menteri Besar) none of the Barisan Nasional representatives supported it.

"This is because we are in control and the people are with us. Thus, it is clear that we face no problem other than the trouble makers," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that the trouble-makers had tried to smear the good image of the country abroad.

He said the group had painted a wrong picture of the country to mislead foreigners, including investors.

He added that Malaysia was on its way to economic recovery with stable prices of tin, rubber and palm oil.

"Unfortunately, this group has been speaking to foreign magazines, especially those based in Hong Kong, and has given them wrong and false impressions about Malaysia.

"They, in fact, realise that their actions will only jeopardise national development, because we need foreign investors to come," he said.

"We have to encourage foreign investors because we lack capital and technology.

"We need them to come and open up industries to provide employment for our unemployed graduates," he said.

The Prime Minister said that in the past, graduates faced no problem getting employment "but the situation now has changed."

He said that many were without jobs or steady income, which was why Malaysia hoped more investors would come.

However, the trouble makers were trying to make things difficult, he said.

"Their actions are bad for us ... they try to portray Malaysia as unstable and not peaceful.

"Such activity is at the expense of the people, especially the unemployed.

"The people have become victims of the wrong-doings of this group," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the group was against everything the Government did or was doing, including the Semarak campaign.