

Don't support me blindly, says PM

By Wong Sai Wan 11 SEP 1988

SEREMBAN, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he did not want blind support from the people.

The Prime Minister urged the people to support the good things the Government did and the good things it was going to do.

"Do not support any stand just because I support it and do not oppose for the sake of opposing," Dr Mahathir said when he launched the Negeri Sembilan Semarak movement in Gemencheh.

Dr Mahathir said certain groups were using various means to try and gain power and added that "disaster" would strike the country if the people were influenced by these groups.

"The groups are only interested in themselves. The people will be safer if they let the present Government continue to represent them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government respected and accepted the decisions of the people, but added that they would suffer if they elected non-Barisan Nasional MPs.

"The people must examine what is true and what is false. I am sure the people will not be fooled by this group," he added.

Dr Mahathir questioned

the motive of those who voiced support for the Barisan and the Mentris Besar but not the top leadership.

"We should support a party's stand and not merely certain individuals. Only then is there meaning," he said.

He also hit out at groups which said that the Semarak movement was a waste of money.

"These are the same peo-

ple who would vacate their seats and cause by-elections which cost millions of dollars to conduct.

"What is the point of holding a by-election to reelect a person who is already a Member of Parliament?"

"We never asked them to resign or to stand for election. They may disagree with us but this is no reason to resign and seek re-election.

"In the recent Johore Baru by-election, the Government spent a lot of money. Who knows how much the other side spent?"

Dr Mahathir also hit out at groups which blamed the Government everytime something went wrong, including the fall in commodity prices.

"But now that the prices have gone up, why don't they praise us?" he asked.