

Beware of this group, warns Mahathir

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GEMENCHEH, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned today that the people would suffer if a certain group, motivated by selfish interest, came to power.

The Prime Minister said the Government knew the tactics well as members of the group had once held positions in the Government.

"Even when they held positions they had spent Government money for their own popularity," he said.

Members of the group had devised various strategies for their own political interest. They had also been inconsistent in their views, said Dr Mahathir.

For example, he said, when commodity prices were low some time ago, they blamed the leadership and Government for it.

However, when the palm oil price reached a record \$1,400 per metric tonne and rubber \$3 per kilo recently, the group pretended to be blind to the

economic recovery.

Dr Mahathir also said the members of the group claimed that Semarak, which was aimed at bringing the people closer to the leaders, was a waste of money. However, he added, it was the group that was wasting people's money through their actions.

One of these, he said, was the expenditure incurred in the recent by-election in Johore Baru. Millions of ringgit were spent by all parties on what Dr Mahathir described as a worthless cause.

"It was a waste of time and money as no one was asked to resign in the first place. If anyone wants to quit, he should do so because of his own belief — and he should not re-contest."

Dr Mahathir said through such actions, the group brought suffering to the people, and he charged that even if these people were to return to power, they would not be able to bring about development.