

WE'LL ACT AGAINST WRONGDOERS: PM

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KOTA BARU, Thurs. — The Government will not hesitate to take action against wrongdoers, regardless of whether they are from the Barisan or the opposition, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Umno president said those who had done wrong would be dealt with according to the law.

"We are a responsible Government which upholds justice and fairness ... There is no question of us using our powers to suppress anyone or taking action to suit our political interests," he said when launching the Kelantan Umno election machinery at the Kota Baru Polytechnic in Kok Lanis near here.

Without naming names, Dr

Mahathir said that some people were trying to avoid action for their wrongdoings by claiming that it was politically motivated.

"They make such allegations from the onset, hoping that they will not be investigated or have any action taken against them.

"I would like to state here that the Government will not hesitate to act against any wrongdoer, whether from the Government or the opposition and wherever they are.

"We are not out to suppress anyone. We are prepared to detain our own (Umno) people and members of the Barisan component parties if they commit an offence.

"We had done this before in 1987 as proof to the world that

the Government is fair to all," Dr Mahathir said.

In Serdang, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said he was shocked that Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan should allege there was a plot involving "certain elements in the Federal Government" to topple him.

Encik Ghafar said relations between the federal and the state governments were cordial, as were ties between the PBS and other Barisan parties.

To a question, he said he did not know who Datuk Seri Pairin was accusing, and he did not think an inquiry was necessary.

"But if Datuk Seri Pairin complains to us, we will listen," he added.