

'Opposition leaders intimidating State officials'

# PM: Civil servants being threatened

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BY SABRY SHARIF

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Opposition party officials in a certain State have threatened civil servants, Federal officers, university lecturers, penghulus and imams for not supporting them, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.**

The Prime Minister said that because of the intimidation and pressure exerted on them, these officials were now frightened and dared not be seen with Ministers or top State officials.

"They are also confused and afraid to carry out their normal work," Dr Mahathir said, adding that the Opposition had abused whatever influence it had even before being elected to power.

Opening the 19th Gerakan delegates conference here, he said the Opposition would take action against those suspected of trying to be close to the Government or the ruling party through certain channels in the State.

He said: "I believe that many Government officers will suffer if the Opposition is elected to power.

"Many officers, including those who support them, will suffer because there will be false allegations made against them by certain officials in the party who want to see them sacked."

Elaborating his point to newsmen later, Dr Mahathir said: "I'm exposing this to the people so that they can see how the Opposition have abused their influence even before they come into power. Their actions only bring hardship to the Malays."

Asked whether he was referring to Kelantan, the Prime Minister replied: "You can make your own guess."

Replying to another question, he said the Federal authorities had not acted to protect the officials because they were under the jurisdiction of the State. (Kelantan has its own Civil Service).

In his speech, the Prime Minister spoke of the success of the Barisan Nasional Government, which based its nation-building work on the strength of co-operation and consensus.

He said the Opposition parties were now trying to form a similar coalition, but added that imitation goods could never compete with the original.

He called the coalition, *Barisan Tiruan* (copycat coalition), which drew laughter from the delegates. The *Barisan Tiruan* is led by a "spirit," which is an imitation of the deregistered Umno, he added.

He said the other members of the *Barisan Tiruan* were certain leaders of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, who are actually anti-labour. Proof of this, he added, could be seen in the MTUC's refusal to help counter the American lobby to deny Malaysia of its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) privileges.

He doubted that the coalition would succeed because of incompatible ideologies, and added that they were trying to fool the people to win votes.

"If I may say, they are a hodge-podge collector of political opportunists sharing a common bed

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without even the formality of a political marriage. This smells of adultery."

He advised Malaysians to beware of the risks they would be taking by supporting these opportunists "who try to sleep on the same pillow, but have conflicting dreams and wake up fighting for the spoils of victory".

The people were also advised to think carefully the call by the Opposition for a change of Government, especially when they had displayed their dictatorial tendencies.

He said: "If they are successful in coming to power, not only will there be a dictatorship but the country will not be stable. Chaos will reign ... the country's debts will rise and the economy will suffer.

"In the final analysis, all these (problems) are the result of one man who did not get what he had dreamed for."

He said politics in the Barisan Nasional was not a tool to further self-interests, but a means to serve the people and the country.

He urged Barisan Nasional leaders to adhere to the spirit of consensus, which has been the pillar of strength of the coalition.