

Dr M: Opposition leaders full of lies

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JERTIH, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today revealed allegations by the opposition that he was involved in a manoeuvre to replace the army top brass with his relatives.

In an obvious reference to Semangat 46, he said it had been spreading such malicious lies, which included an allegation that the recent helicopter crash in Sarawak in which a number of generals were killed was also planned by him.

"They said that I was

trying to kill the generals so that I can replace them with my own relatives," he said at a Barisan Nasional gathering here.

The function also saw the Prime Minister handing over the keys of two-wheeled tractors to 96 farmers involved in the Besut Integrated Agricultural Development Programme.

Dr Mahathir said the allegations were ridiculous as it was not easy to do such things. Besides, he said, he was not that cruel as he was made out to be.

However, he said, those

making the allegations might be cruel enough to carry out such acts.

He said this was among the many allegations made by the opposition to tarnish his credibility as well as that of the Government.

"Their campaigns are full of lies and false allegations aimed at creating feelings of hatred towards the Government," the Prime Minister said.

He said all this was done in the hope of winning votes without any real intention of helping the *rakyat*.

He said those responsible

only wanted to be elected representatives, Ministers and even the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was involved in a pact with DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang to topple the Barisan Nasional Government with the hope of becoming Prime Minister.

Mr Lim, he said, would be given the Chief Ministership of Penang.

"Thus he (Tengku Razaleigh) would become a Lim Kit Siang-made Prime

Minister and will always be under his thumb for fear of losing the two-thirds majority, which can't be won by the party on its own," he said.

The Prime Minister called on the people not to change the present Government as they would not know what would be in store for them if they were to replace it.

Dr Mahathir did not deny that the Barisan Nasional Government had its weaknesses but it had always tried to correct its mistakes.