

Beware 'traitors', PM tells people

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JERANTUT, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned the people about "traitors" who sought to gain power through the political process only to destroy their own country.

The Prime Minister identified several trade union leaders in the political movement, who claimed to be representing Malaysian workers but were engaged in actions contrary to their interests.

They echoed the demand of the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) for the creation of strong trade unions in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said AFL-CIO wanted strong and militant Malaysian trade unions which would disrupt the country's competitiveness in the world market.

They hoped by doing so foreign investors would leave Malaysia and the American workers would again have the jobs they lost to developing countries.

He said Malaysian Trades Union Congress leaders Dr V. David and Encik Zainal Rampak offered to help the Government defend the privileges the country enjoyed under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), but had laid down the same conditions demanded by AFL-CIO.

In the past, the Prime Minister said, people who worked against the interests of the nation were considered traitors and dealt with accordingly.

During the time of the British, traitors were banished to faraway

places like the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean.

But today such people, who claimed to be politicians, were seeking the mandate of the people so that they could destroy the country.

"I am surprised there are still people who are willing to support political parties associated with these 'traitors'."

Replying to allegations by the Opposition that the Government was putting too much emphasis on industrialisation at the expense of agriculture, the Prime Minister said the economy would not be doing as well as it was today if not for the industrialisation programme.

He was addressing a large crowd at Kampung Pulau Mansok about 5km from here.

He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mo-

□ OPPOSITION GROUP WEAK, SAYS PM: P2

hamed Ali, Minister of Youth and Sports Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Minister of Culture and Tourism Datuk Sabbarruddin Chik, Menteri Besar Datuk Khalil Yaakob and other State dignitaries.

He said the fluctuation of commodity prices in the last two years had been more than compensated by the increase in the volume and value of manufactured goods.

Dr Mahathir noted that at one point the Opposition had also criticised the national car project.

"But, now that the project is making profits and they are driving Proton Sagas, they have ceased to criticise it," he said.

Similarly, said the Prime Minister, once Perwaja Steel started turning around they also stopped talking about it.