

Residents should help: Ghafar

● FROM PAGE ONE

"The proposed demonstration is proof that if these parties come into power, they will use ways that are not peaceful to settle issues . . . and this will not be beneficial to the country and the people."

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that those who benefited directly from the new Cheras interchange should help shoulder part of the cost.

Speaking to reporters after opening a Barisan Nasional pre-election motivational course here, he said it would be unfair to

use only tax money to pay for the road improvements.

"If the Government pays for Jalan Cheras using only funds collected as taxes, it will mean that every taxpayer, including those from states like Terengganu, are paying for the use of Jalan Cheras," he said.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the MCA would present a memorandum to the Cabinet on the Cheras toll.

"I have received a memorandum from the Cheras MCA branch chairman, Senator Tan Chai Ho and I will present

it at the next Cabinet meeting," he said.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, in a statement, said he would ask for a meeting with Dr Mahathir over the detention of Mr Tan Kok Wai.

"The demonstration last Friday had nothing to do either with the committee or the DAP," he added.

Mr Lim claimed that Mr Tan and three others went to bail out the 31 people arrested by police when they too were detained.

Aliran president Dr Chandra Muzaffar, in a statement, called for an independent panel to investigate how the protest had turned unruly.

Dr M: Don't make Cheras toll a racial issue

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has warned the people against turning the Cheras toll issue into a racial issue for political gains.

He refuted allegations that the Government had "purposely" imposed high toll rates because Cheras was largely a Chinese area.

"I am saddened by these allegations. We know who is making them. Do not play with racial issues in this country . . . it is dangerous," he said.

"If there is a law that allows us to detain those who use racial issues, we will detain them."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after presenting prizes to winners of the 1990 Bakti Walkathon at Parliament House today.

He was commenting on the demonstration by over 1,000 people at the Cheras toll plaza on Friday night to protest against the Sept 1 imposition of toll.

He said the demonstration could have been avoided if the residents had used the proper channels to appeal for a reduction in charges.

(Light vehicles are charged \$1 per entry and \$2 for heavy vehicles. Motorcyclists are exempted.)

"If they had used the proper channels, there would have been no demonstration and the residents would not have been exploited by the politicians," he said.

"A solution can be found but, I cannot give any assurances. We will do whatever possible to settle the issue, but the Government will not bow to any threats."

On the detention of Sungai Besi DAP MP Tan Kok Wai and a DAP member, Mr Lim Yit Chee, under the Internal Security Act, Dr Mahathir said it was a police decision.

"I only heard about the detention over TV. I will have nothing to do with the detention in the next two months," he said.

The two were detained under Section 73 of the ISA which allows the police to detain them for two months for questioning.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Minister, said upon expiry of the period, an order could be issued to detain them further.

He said the proposed demonstration by Opposition parties at the Jalan Pahang toll plaza tomorrow showed that "they were not happy with the peace and order in the country."

● TURN TO PAGE 3