

Dr M: We can review toll rates if...

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Government will consider meeting the people to discuss a reduction in the Cheras toll rates if "they stop carrying out demonstrations and threats against the Government", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said the Government normally entertained appeals and requests by the public which were based "on what we can do".

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"But if force is being used against the Government and there are threats not to vote the Government if the rates are not reduced...if they don't vote for the Government, then the possibility of a reduction is not there at all," he said at a Press conference after chairing a three-hour Umno supreme council meeting.

If the rates were to be reduced at this point, then the opposition would take credit for it and would ask the

people to vote for them.

They will say that the rates were reduced as a result of the demonstration, he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was tension in the area because a certain political party was "playing politics".

He dismissed any suggestion that the demonstrations yesterday were an act of last resort saying that he did not receive any appeal from any group.

"They spoke to Mr Lee Lam Thye (DAP MP for Bukit Bintang) ... let him resolve it," he said.

Responding to an earlier question, Dr Mahathir said the Government would act accordingly against those "who go around campaigning and using force to topple the Government."

He said the anyone had the right to raise issues as the country was democratic.

"Sometimes we don't even act against something

that is wrong," he said and cited as examples the sale of *Harakah* (Pas publication) and the *Rocket* (DAP).

He said as party publications, they should only be distributed among party members.

"But they are sold in shops...and we don't take action...as long as they do not bring about tension, we don't act. We are confident that the people can distinguish what is real and what is not," he said.