

Why two-thirds majority is vital — by PM

TELUK INTAN, Thurs. — The Government wants to win the general election by a two-thirds majority so that it will not be threatened by its MPs, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said that if the Government obtained a simple majority, it would be too weak to stop MPs from threatening to join the opposition if their demands were not met.

"They know that if they leave the party, the Government would fall. So they take advantage of this situation to press for things like licences, approved permits and timber concessions," he said.

"Eventually, all the MPs will make similar demands and the MPs will grow wealthy while the people's well-being is neglected," he added.

Speaking at a gathering attended by about 4,000 people at the Hutan Me-

lintang school, 30km from here, Dr Mahathir said that because of these possible repercussions, the Government emphasises the need for a two-thirds majority victory.

"We don't want to win by one or two seats as we will then have a timid government whose Prime Minister will have sleepless nights worrying about MPs who will leave the party," he said. "We want a resounding win so that we will be strong to carry out our plans without giving in to the demands made by irresponsible MPs."

Later in Parit Buntar, Dr Mahathir said there was no way Tengku Razaleigh would be able to find the money to pay \$100 to each citizen above 55 years as promised in the opposition manifesto.

He said it could only be done if "Tengku Razaleigh mortgages the country to outsiders."