

Don't fan anti-Malaysia sentiments,

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KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. —
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Moha-
m& today cautioned certain
quarters against the dangers of
fanning State parochialism and
anti-Malaysia sentiments.

The Prime Minister said all
Malaysians should consider

themselves not as citizens of a
particular State but as Malay:
sians.

However, there are certain
people who are fanning anti-
Malaysia sentiments for their
own political interest to gain
power and wealth for them-
selves.

They do so by creating ill-feel-
ings among the races claiming

that the Government discrimi-
nated against their religion.

He said it was clear that
though Islam was the official
religion, Malaysians were free
to practise their own faith un-
like in some developed coun-
tries.

Dr Mahathir said that only
through feelings of pride of be-
ing Malaysians could the nation

be strong and thwart any efforts
by the enemies.

Citing an example, he said the
recent laying down of arms by
the Communist Party of Ma-
laya was a result of the nation's
strength.

He doubted the CPM would
have ceased its armed struggle
if it was just facing a State and
not the nation as a whole.

,PM warns certain -quarters

If such feelings persist the na-
tion would be destroyed, Dr Ma-
hathir said when addressing the
22nd Congress of **Usno** — a com-
ponent party of the Barisan Na-
sional but which is in Opposition
at State level.

The Prime Minister said
State Governments should be
receptive to accepting postings
of Government officers from

other States.

Referring to investigations by
the authorities against certain
rich people, Dr Mahathir said
this were not politically moti-
vated as claimed by some
quarters.

"There are certain people who
were not rich before but are
very wealthy now. According to
the laws they have to pay taxes.

If they failed to pay, the Gov-
ernment has to investigate."

Action would be taken against
any wrong doer irrespective of
his position and status, he said
adding that there was no such
thing as political motivation "**as**
we carry out our duties in a just
manner".

On the question of States
wanting royalty that they col-

lect for themselves, he said the
matter should be viewed in the
national perspective.

"There is nothing wrong in
giving the poorer States more
but this does not mean that the
Federal Government discrimi-
nates against any State."