

Govt reply to observer group under way

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Government is finalising a reply to Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku on several inaccurate and misinterpreted points contained in Commonwealth Observer Group's report on the recent general election. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the

Government received the report last week and found that it contained many inaccuracies.

The Prime Minister said the report would only be made public after the real situation has been explained to Chief Emeka.

He said that among others, the report had stated that the campaign period was too short and that the Opposition

was not given adequate coverage by the mainstream media.

"I will have to explain all these before making public the contents of the report.

"In fact, the campaign period was not short as most of the parties had already started their campaigning two years before the elections.

"The group's observation

that the Opposition was not given coverage is untrue.

"The Chinese and Tamil newspapers, for example, gave favourable report to the Opposition. And these vernacular newspapers are more widely read compared to English newspapers.

"Since the Commonwealth Observer group only understood English and read English newspapers, their per-

ception of mainstream media was limited to only the English newspapers."

On a call by the Kedah Umno Youth that the Home Ministry revoke the publishing permit of Pas' official organ, *Harakah*, for publishing false reports about the Government, he said that action would only be taken if the reports were seditious.