

Dr M: Agents of the West out to wreck country

SEREMBAN, Sun. — Certain people in the country are agents financed by western countries to disrupt Malaysia's growth, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"These people are pseudo-politicians who have no guts to become full-time politicians. They only echo the sentiments of their western mentors to destabilise the country," the Prime Minister told reporters at the end of his one-day visit to Negri Sembilan.

"They are so engrossed with Western democracy that they are willing to tell the Western-dominated media that our country is not stable."

Dr Mahathir said the Government was aware of these "paid agents" and was

monitoring their movements.

The Government could not take any action against them because they were free to voice their opinions.

"However, we will continue to expose them and counter the misinformation they have been spreading, especially in the Western media," he said, adding that the efforts of the "paid agents" had, in some way, influenced a small part of the population.

He said there were also others who became agents of the West by parroting the statements of their mentors because they did not know better.

Malaysia, he said, did not need Western styled democracy which emphasised individual freedom.

"What we want is democracy which benefits the majority without forsaking the minority of the country."

On the involvement of some police personnel in crime, Dr Mahathir said:

"We want our police force to be disciplined. But there will always be some black sheep. It is not something which is easy to prevent. Sometimes we make mistakes in the selection of new recruits."

"We know this is happening but it is not widespread. We are taking action against the culprits."

He said it would be up to the Inspector-General of Police to determine whether "bad policemen" were sent for internment at Pulau Jerejak.

Asked whether the Government's

Kampungku programme was aimed at reducing the migration of youths from villages to towns, Dr Mahathir said the project was aimed at developing villages in line with the economic growth of the country.

He said the Government was not worried about the migration as long as youths were able to find jobs.

"The only way agriculture can be expanded in villages is through collective farming or efficient plantations. This does not require a big workforce."

Dr Mahathir said migration would cause a problem only if the youths were unemployed as this would lead to unhealthy social activities such as drug-taking and crime.