

Mahathir: Groups BT 27 MAY 1991 acting as Western agents

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday disclosed that certain "semi-political" groups in Malaysia are acting as Western agents and misleading Malaysians on the interpretation of democracy.

Some of the minority activists are being financed by those countries and the Government of Malaysia knows who they are, he said.

"Such people will destroy democracy," he told reporters after speaking on his "2020 Vision" at the Seremban Municipal Hall yesterday.

"We do not want Western style democracy...democracy with unlimited freedom... giving priority to individual freedom .. we want democracy which gives priority to society and the interests of the majority," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Nevertheless the Government does not ignore the interests of the minority in Malaysia but they should not attempt to control the situation in this country, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said such groups are semi-political because they are afraid of direct involvement in politics for fear of being rejected by the majority.

"They have become agents of Western countries as they still think in terms of a people under colonial rule and act like mynahs and whatever is said by the mentor nations, these people without thinking will repeat it."

Asked whether the agents he mentioned are real agents or groups influenced by the West, the Prime Minister said: "There are real agents who have been indeed financed from overseas and we know who they are."

"If we allow them to act freely with their various suggestions without we coming up with better options, they will succeed in destroying this country. In view of this we have to expose them," he said.

Such groups are very dangerous because they disseminate baseless information so that Malaysia will be discredited by foreigners and the Malaysian economy suffer.

The groups are carrying out their activities by making use of foreign media and the influence of other countries which are trying to pressure Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Asked whether the groups had succeeded in influencing a large number of Malaysians, the Prime Minister said: "Not many but some have been influenced." —

Bernamea