

# PM: Expose the Opposition's lies

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By Robert Goh

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Barisan Nasional component parties should expose to the finish whatever lies spread by the Opposition against the Government.

The BN components should also be wary of situations when they could be championing issues created by the Opposition, said Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman.

Speaking at the Gerakan's 20th delegates conference here today, Dr Mahathir said that it had become a habit for the Opposition to accuse the Government of being irresponsible and unjust. They harped on these accusations all the time, he added.

Even after investigations

made by people who sided with them showed that the accusations were untrue, the Opposition would continue to repeat the same accusations.

Dr Mahathir said: "Only when the persons they accuse become their friends will they stop their accusations."

Citing the amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1960 as an example of the accusations, he said the objectives of the Bill were twisted by the Opposition for their own purposes.

They said the amendment would enable the Government to seize non-Bumiputera land. This is totally unfounded, irresponsible and dangerous, he said.

In acquiring land for development purposes, the Government does not discriminate whether it is

owned by Bumiputeras or non-Bumiputeras. The Government would not use racial sentiments because this is not the Barisan Nasional's way of administration.

Dr Mahathir said: "But land is a depleting asset and it is vital for the Government to be given the power to obtain land for the purpose of continuing the development of the country."

"The Government will pay appropriate compensation and if the owners are dissatisfied with the amount, they can take the matter to court."

The Opposition's allegation was also illogical, the Prime Minister said. As a Government elected by the people, it would not take away the people's land if it was not in the national interest.

Against this background,

he said the people were now fed up with the Opposition.

If component parties of the BN also championed the issues created by the Opposition, then they too would run the risk of not being trusted, Dr Mahathir said.

Also present were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai, vice-president Datuk Lim Ah Lek and secretary-general Dr Ting Chew Peh.

Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Leo Moggie and Usno deputy president Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai were also present at the assembly opening. The assembly was attended by about 1,000 delegates.

Dr Mahathir also said that in the last general election, co-operation between Semangat 46, Pas and DAP had brought down the BN Gov-

ernment in Kelantan.

"However, a few days after the Pas-Semangat 46 Government was formed there, signs of a split appeared. The pact between them continues to this day only through force of legislation.

"Similarly, if Pas and DAP were to succeed in forming a Government, they will surely introduce stricter laws to preserve their coalition Government. Such a Government will not bring happiness to the people.

"Nevertheless, these three parties will continue to co-operate and always attempt to put the BN Government in a bad light.

"But we are confident that they will not succeed because their co-operation is false and full of pretensions.