

PM: Loyalty is the price of citizenship

PETALING JAYA, Tues. — Loyalty and responsibility to the country — that is the price of Malaysian citizenship, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there were Malaysians who were so taken up by certain Western values that they thought that citizenship had nothing to do with loyalty to the country.

"They are prepared to be used by foreigners with bad intentions towards us. They receive money from foreigners to sabotage their own country," he said when launching the new credit-card sized identity card at the National Registration Department (NRD) here.

He said these people claimed they were championing human rights and the environment.

"Human rights and the environment are the responsibilities of Malaysian citizens. It is they who should determine it to safeguard," he

The Prime Minister said Malaysians should not take their citizenship for granted and that the privileges they enjoyed were not free.

Dr Mahathir later told newsmen that certain pressure groups were easily swayed by their western counterparts who were bent on discrediting Malaysia.

He said there were genuine pressure groups but cautioned that they should not allow themselves to be exploited by others.

He added the Government had found out that there were pressure groups that had a lot of money and was puzzled as to the source of their funds.

Asked about western groups such as the Greens environmental group, he said these people came from countries which claimed to uphold the rule of the law "but when they come here, they break the law."

Dr Mahathir labelled Green activists as hypo-

crites who carried out their activities because the interests of their countries had been affected.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir criticised western countries which used their non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to "re-colonise" developing countries.

He said these activists still had a colonial mentality.

He cited the campaign against tropical timber and the Malaysian-made furniture in Europe as "economic arm-twisting."

He added the activists should hold more demonstrations in their own countries where threats to the environment were greater.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir reminded IC holders to take care of their identity cards as they were very

valuable personal effects.

He also said the new IC was the first step in the use of computers by the department.

Under the second phase of the programme which would begin next year, he said a database would be set up to collect the data of the population.

The data would facilitate national planning and the handling of public woes, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the entire computer project would cost \$64 million.

He said that the new ICs had many safety features to prevent forgeries.

NRD director-general Kamaruddin Nordin said the department would be improving its computer system and that enquiry services would be made accessible to other government agencies and departments after 1993.

The Prime Minister was the first person to be issued with a new IC.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob and ministry parliamentary secretary Ong Ka Ting were also issued with new ICs at the function.

The new IC bears the card number, name, birthdate and address of the holder.