

# PM: Foreigners the instigators

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KUALA MUDA (Langkawi), Sun. A group in Penang, financed by foreign countries, is instigating Pulau Langkawi residents to oppose development programmes on the island, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the group, which was under

the influence of the opposition, had been the tool of certain quarters who wanted to see a failure in development projects on Pulau Langkawi.

The group has nothing else to do except instigating the islanders to hamper the island's development programmes, he added.

Dr Mahathir told newsmen this at the De Lima hotel at the end of a day-long visit to inspect prepara-

tions for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (*Lima '91*).

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions from newsmen on his statement last month that the injunction taken by a landowner in Langkawi to restrain the construction of the Sheraton-Langkawi resort was initiated by an environmental interest group.

He said the increase in the

price of land in Langkawi by the landowners was initiated by the group.

He said if the residents continued to allow the group to influence them, they would suffer as tourists would stay away from the island.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said the Government would not take any action against the group because Malaysia is a free country.