

Opposition distorting proclamation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad accused some quarters, including the opposition parties, of deliberately misinterpreting the Proclamation of Constitutional Principles for Malay Rulers for their own political gains.

They were doing this despite knowing that the proclamation is important for strengthening the relationship between the Rulers and the Government so that misunderstandings would not arise.

In a reply to Mr Fong Kui Lun (DAP-Klang), Dr Mahathir said the original Code of Ethics for Rulers had been renamed the Proclamation of Constitutional Principles and was generally agreed to by the Rulers.

He said the majority of the Rulers are happy with the proclamation which is solely aimed at strengthening the existing cordial rela-



DR MAHATHIR
... majority happy

tions. Replying to supplementary questions, the Prime Minister said some Rulers had yet to accept the proclamation and efforts are being made to find a solution.

"What is important now is to explain and clarify certain parts of the proclama-

tion to avoid any misunderstanding in the future.

"We are confident that given time we will find a solution," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it is not necessary for him to explain in detail the contents of the proclamation because the mass media had given full publicity on its contents.

He said it is also not necessary for him to state the reaction of the Rulers because his opinion would differ from the opinion of other people.

What is important is that the proclamation was drawn up after discussions with the Rulers.

He said it is untrue that the Rulers had not agreed in full with the proclamation.

Dr Mahathir added that efforts are being undertaken to further explain to those Rulers who sought clarification on certain points in the proclamation.