

Dr M: Proportionate representation unsuitable

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Proportionate representation is not practical for Malaysia as it needs a strong government to implement projects. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. The Prime Minister said there would be chaos if the proportionate representation system were to be adopted in a developing country like Malaysia.

This, he said, was because the Government would not have the majority and therefore become weak and not able to run the country effectively.

He reminded the people that a Government which failed to get the majority vote would have problems administering the country and this would lead to politi-

cal instability as elected parties normally could not co-operate among themselves.

(Proportionate representation is a system whereby the representation in the Dewan Rakyat and State Assemblies is based on the percentage of votes polled by the various parties contesting in an election).

He said this at the launching of two books — *The Conduct of Elections in Malaysia* and its Bahasa Malaysia version — published by Berita Publishing Sdn. Bhd. The books are written by the secretary of the Election Commission, Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman.

The books, priced at RM24.90 each, among other things, give details on the

electoral system in Malaysia, candidature, nomination, polling, counting, election petitions, election administrations, various laws and law cases concerning elections.

Dr Mahathir said there had been proposals by certain quarters that the proportionate representation be adopted in Malaysia.

"This system had been tried out in Europe, especially in Denmark. The consequence was that no party managed to get majority votes. All the Governments were either minorities or coalitions, which were weak and therefore not able to rule effectively," he said.

On the two books, he said they should be useful as a guide for the next general

election as the author had vast experience in conducting general elections. Abdul Rashid has been the commission's secretary from 1979.

The books are on sale at all Berita Book Centre branches, major book shops and at Berita Publishing, 22, Jalan Liku, PO Box No. 1187, Pantai Baru, 59206 Kuala Lumpur or telephone M.Y. Leong at 03-2822758.

Earlier, general manager publishing, Berita Publishing, Abdul Manaf Saad, said the company would soon be publishing Dr Mahathir's articles on contemporary issues published in the *Straits Times* under the pseudonym Che Det in a collection entitled *The Early Years 1947-1972*.