

# 'Voice' fails to disrupt speech by Dr M

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. — The playback of a recorded speech, presumably by the Opposition, disrupted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech for a brief three minutes at a ceremony to launch a low-cost housing project in Bukit Tunggal near here today.

The incident occurred about 6pm when Dr Mahathir was delivering his speech. All of a sudden a voice in a Kelantanese dialect was heard voicing dissatisfaction and condemning the Government.

At first those present thought that somebody had gone up to the stage where Dr Mahathir was delivering his speech.

However, on closer inspection, the voice was found to have originated from a speaker, located directly in front of the stage opposite where Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad was sitting.

A police personnel immediately disconnected the wires from the speaker which led all the way behind the crowd facing the stage.

Although the voice appeared to have been a recording, it was not immediately confirmed if police had discovered the audio equipment used to interrupt the function.

Dr Mahathir, who appeared stunned at first, continued with his speech criticising the Opposition for ungentlemanly conduct.

Jokingly, the Prime Minister said he was about to end his speech, but the irresponsible action by the Opposition in disrupting him had annoyed him and encouraged him to continue talking.

The Prime Minister ended his speech about 20 minutes after the interruption and then proceeded to lay the foundation for the low-cost housing project.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said the Government had offered cheap houses for the poor.

"We have asked all housing developers to build low-cost houses to be sold to the poor, besides the luxury units and middle-range homes for the rich and those who can afford them."

He stressed that the BN only promised things that it could fulfil, unlike the Opposition which only gave empty promises.

"As a responsible Government, we have built roads, provided water and electricity supply, even to the most remote areas in the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN Government had also extended financial aid to Pas in Kelantan for development purposes so that the rakyat could benefit from it but the truth was twisted by the Opposition, reflecting the ungratefulness of the party.

On Parti Melayu Semangat 46, he said the party was formed as a result of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's frustration after failing to become Umno president.

"Tengku Razaleigh is a loser who cannot accept defeat."

He also said that the BN Government had spent millions of ringgit to build bridges but instead the Pas supporters claimed these as their own and refused to allow BN supporters to stick their banners or place the party's flags on them.