

VALUE THE PEACE

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PM: Mob rule and street justice will destroy what we have achieved

By DEVID RAJAH

SHAH ALAM: Certain quarters are using "mob rule and street justice" to show their dissatisfaction with the Government and are threatening to destroy the peace and prosperity of the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said these people did not like the country's democratic and legal processes and preferred to show "their might by taking to the streets

and creating chaos."

"If we move towards this direction, I am afraid our country will not be peaceful and the people will suffer.

"What these quarters are doing can also be done by others (who are in favour of the Government) and it will result in clashes," he told reporters after launching the national-level Unity Day celebrations here yesterday.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said people must accept the democratic rule and the legal system of the country and not use strength to seek justice.

"If we decide matters with our

strength then the strong will claim innocence and there will be chaos in the country.

"Justice will not be done if a person who has wronged resorted to violence, demonstrations and riots to prove innocence," he told about 5,000 people gathered at Dewan Jubli Perak here.

Dr Mahathir also said the people must accept that justice could only be achieved through the courts.

He said if they were not satisfied with a particular court's decision, they could appeal to the higher courts.

"There is no discrimination in the judicial system, even top officials

would be taken to court if they committed offences," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the court do not take into account the status of a person but the offence committed.

"In the past, a Cabinet Minister had been found guilty by the court. Neither the Cabinet nor the party objected to it.

"There were no demonstrations and riots then because we respected the court's decision," he added.

He said if people were not satisfied with certain laws, it could be debated in Parliament.

"The democratic and judicial systems of the country must be respected," he said, adding that no

one would admit to an offence if a show of strength and support could be used to "make him innocent."

He said it was important for the people to value the gift of peace and prosperity which the country had to strive to achieved.

Dr Mahathir said people could elect the opposition parties if they wanted a change in government and not to resort to riots and demonstrations.

"The ruling government would accept defeat if the majority elected the Opposition," he said.