

Don't use street demos to topple Govt, 5 20 16 98 public told

KUALA LUMPUR: Street demonstrators should wait for the coming general election to voice their grievances rather than resort to unconstitutional methods to topple the Government.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said if the demonstrators wanted the Government to practise democracy, they must also act in a democratic way.

"If we don't like Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, we have to topple him through Umno elections and we have to oust Umno through general elections.

"In Umno, if Dr Mahathir loses in a party election, we have to accept the fact.

"However, as Dr Mahathir has said, we cannot topple a government which has been elected by the people through street demonstrations," he told reporters at a Deepavali open house hosted by MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu here yesterday.

He was asked to comment on recent street demonstrations allegedly in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim which urged the Yang di-Per-tuan Agong to dissolve the parliament to make way for an early general election, which is not due until the end of 2000.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said such a call was an attempt to rile the people against the Government.

"They should not act against the system of democracy in this country.

"Right now, the Government has no reasons to dissolve the parliament because we are not facing any serious crisis," he said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Barisan component leaders should have more face-to-face communication with the people rather than the usual mass media campaign.