

# Mahathir brushes off 'Ops Lalang' rumours

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Current political situation does not warrant such an operation: PM

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**SERDANG, Fri:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today dispelled rumours of an impending crackdown on opposition leaders similar to *Ops Lalang* in late 1987.

The prime minister said the current political situation does not warrant such an operation but "something will have to be done if the Opposition pushes the government by not respecting

law and order".

Mahathir said he did not know of any plan to undertake such an operation or "maybe the opposition knows more than I do".

"Or they feel guilty. They know what they are doing is wrong and they are worried that the government might take action on them," he said after presenting the MS ISO 9001 certification to Universiti Putra Malaysia's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Mahathir also said such rumours of an *Ops Lalang* would affect the country's

investment climate and tourist arrivals "and people in those businesses are going to suffer".

"They (the opposition) don't care about all that. For them, the best thing is a country in turmoil ... they can get the maximum benefit," he added.

Mahathir said another element which brings losses to people is frequent demonstrations.

While agreeing with PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's statement yesterday that demonstrations are

legal, the prime minister noted: "There must be a good reason for it."

He said demonstrating for something which had been neglected by the government for a long time is a good reason. "But here is an opposition party which has representatives in parliament, at every level. They even have two (state) governments with them.

"They have every other avenue for making heard their protest and they can do that without having demonstrations," he added.