

Have trust in us. urges PM.

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'Let the authorities deal with Al Ma'unah problem'

By LESTER MELANYI

KUCHING, Sun: The Prime Minister hopes that the people will have confidence in the Government in solving the problems caused by the deviationist group Al Ma'unah.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said: "I know some people are quietly asking the people to take revenge on the group.

"However, the people should leave it to the Government to deal with the problem. I can assure everyone that there will no discrimination in favour of anyone in dealing with this case," he said.

Mahathir said this to reporters

after opening the Wisma Chinese Chamber, here, today

Those who are guilty, he said, will receive just punishment.

• The Prime Minister said those who harp on religious issues to gain support are playing dangerous games.

Earlier, at a community lunch with the people, Mahathir said the killings of Det Cpl R. Sagadevan and Army Ranger Matthew ak

Medan by the Al Ma'unah group should serve as a lesson to all Malaysians on the importance of religious tolerance.

Saying that the two were killed because they were not Muslims, Mahathir added that their sacrifices should be remembered by all and not to be taken lightly

"Let their sacrifices be a lesson to us of the need to practise religious tolerance in this multi-racial

and multi-religious country of ours," he said.

"The incident has shown us how ordinary citizens are willing to kill, after being instigated to go against the Government," he said.

Before the lunch, Mahathir met the family of the late Matthew and assured his parents, Medan ak Munying and Ladun ak Ngumbang, that justice would be done for the death of their son. Matthew was tortured and killed while being held hostage by the group.

Mahathir said the group had resorted to violence in order to topple the Government.

"The group instigated its sup-

porters, who are ordinary people, to hate the Government and to set up an Islamic government. Eventually, the hatred clouded their thinking and drove them to killing.

"Those whom they killed are a policeman and a soldier, the peacekeepers of all citizens, including those from the Al Ma'unah.

"However, because of their deep hatred for the Government, they are willing to kill," he said.

He added that the Government will keep monitoring activities of such groups.

Mahathir believes that the majority of Malaysians are tolerant of one another's religion.