

'All for political gain'

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Dr Mahathir Certain quarters spreading rumours

KUALA LIPIS Thurs — Certain quarters were trying to make political gains from the fighting among residents in Kampung Lindungan outside the Federal Capital Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today

The Prime Minister said these people had spread rumours of many people being killed in the hope that it would lead to wide spread unrest not just in the area but in other settlements too

The Prime Minister said Certain quarters are purposely blowing the clashes out of proportion by spreading rumours that hundreds of people have been killed hoping that this will cause anger among the communities

They hope the clashes will

continue and we know that if this is prolonged like what happened in a neighbouring country there is a possibility the Government will be toppled he said

Dr Mahathir who is Umno president was speaking at a Press conference after a dialogue with leaders and members of the Lipis and Raub Umno divisions at the Lipis Umno building here

He was asked to comment on the latest developments following clashes among residents last week in the area besides the reported assault on Tuesday night in Puchong involving four men

He said there was also a possibility that the incident was an attempt to raise tension among the people

In an immediate follow up action police arrested four people three in Petaling Jaya and one in Taman Medan believed to be connected with the incident

Following last Thursday's clashes six people have died 26 hospitalised and 220 arrested of whom 53 have been released on bail

Seven Indonesians have been handed over to the Immigration department for deportation

Asked whether the rumour that the death toll had exceeded six as released by police was another attempt to incite the people Dr Mahathir replied in the affirmative

That's why we have been advising the people not to spread rumours because they are created for some specific purposes

Because of this we know of people wanting to come to Kuala Lumpur after rumours that the Malays there have been attacked he added

Those behind the rumours created the stories themselves they are not in the position to know more than the police

The authorities know how many have been killed and injured Dr Mahathir said

The police have lodged a report against those they believed to have circulated a higher death toll than publicised

Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob were also present at the Press conference