

# 'Opposition a stumbling block'

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## Progress hindered by delays, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR Mon - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Opposition would continue to be a stumbling block to Government efforts to develop the nation.

The Prime Minister said the Opposition had caused the cost of development to be higher due to delays and other reasons in the past.

The Opposition will be a hindrance. You can see how much the Government has developed this country all of which was done despite the Opposition.

They have never supported any good we want to do. This has made every developmental cost higher due to delays and the like. And we believe this Parliament session will also be like that.

The Opposition will be a stumbling block to every development of the country.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, was speaking to reporters at the lobby of Parliament House after a pre-council meeting with Barisan Nasional MPs and senators.

He was asked earlier about the is-

ssues that would be brought up in the third session of the 10th Parliament which began this morning.

Dr Mahathir said among them would be the SRJK (C) Damansara issue, the incidents at Jalan Klang Lama, the Malaysia Airlines investment issue and the lower dividends paid by Tabung Haji and the Employees Provident Fund.

We know there are several issues that would be focused on by all quarters, including the Opposition.

So we must know what the Government's stand is and the reasons. I ask all members to study in depth the information that has been provided by Ministers, he said.

Asked which issue would be the most important, Dr Mahathir said:

For us, the stability of the country is the most important.

There are people who propose to destabilize the country. They are very attracted with the instability of other countries because they hope that if there is instability, the Government can be toppled.

He said these people saw how the Government could be toppled in some countries where there were

riots and street demonstrations.

So they plan to have these things. They also see an opportunity from what happened in Jalan Klang Lama to exploit it and seek popularity, especially among the poor, Dr Mahathir said.

He said while the poor felt the pressures of life, certain quarters inflamed their emotions by asking why they should remain poor when there was much wealth in the country.

When these issues are played up, it is easy to inflame them. When we inflame people and they act wildly without being responsible, then the poor become victims.

They just wait. When there are riots in the streets as they plan and when the Government is toppled, they are happy, Dr Mahathir said.

On what would be the biggest economic issue to be discussed, he said it would be the implementation of the Outline Perspective Plan (OPP) and the Five Year Plan.

But I am quite sure the Opposition will make some tiny problem become the major issue because for the Opposition, they do not want development but issues that make them popular.