

# Don't be influenced by Opposition, says PM

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Campaigns said to be malicious slanderous and destructive

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I t i t h s d i l y c o n

**KUALA LUMPUR** Wed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the people not to be influenced by the Opposition's malicious slanderous and destructive campaigns

He said Malaysians regardless of race and religion should work together to develop the country and defend it from foreigners interested in conquering the country through economic measures

We have been provided in this country with lots of amenities and opportunities to advance in life. It is unfortunate that there are those unhappy with the last election results and are planning to topple the government by holding street demonstra-

tions, he said.

Mahathir was speaking at the national level meet the people session with residents of Kampung Mulia Km4 Jalan Gombak today which was attended by about 10,000 people.

The event is organised by the Listeners, Viewers and Readers Group (K3P) established by the Information Ministry to foster rapport between the government and the people.

Also present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalid Yaakob, Women's Affairs and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Drs Suleiman Mohamed and Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus.

Mahathir said those plan-

ning to hold the demonstrations claimed it is democratic to do so.

They think street demonstration is democracy but can we accept this so-called democracy as a way to topple the government which was elected by the people?

The Opposition should accept the results of the last election and hold off campaigning until it is time for the next election to give the government of the day the chance to prove itself, he said.

By continuing campaigns right after last year's election, the Opposition is dividing the people especially by giving their khutbah (sermons) in the mosques to influence the Muslims.

There is no reason for PAS not to work together with Umno to achieve common goals. We are not asking their members to join us by doing so, he said.

Mahathir said PAS refused to work with Umno as the party claims it is working for national unity, not Malay unity. When in reality, the party is trying very hard to gain the support of the Chinese to win the next election.

He said this tactic is clearly shown by PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's visit to Bukit Pelanduk which supposedly reflected the party's sympathy for the Chinese community there.

I am sure the Chinese will not be taken in by these tactics as they should realise that PAS members at the same time are reassuring themselves that this is just a ploy by their leaders to gain the support of the non-Malays, he said.

Mahathir said PAS and Keadilan have never been thankful to the government for the tolerance shown to them.