

Govt formed by rioters will not last, says PM

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that any government that replaces one brought down through riots will face the same fate.

He said that some groups believed that by staging riots daily, the country would be destabilised and subsequently the government of the day could be toppled.

"But let me state it clearly here that once a government is toppled through riots, the one replacing it will also suffer the same fate," he said.

Referring to two of Malaysia's neighbours whose gov-

ernments were toppled through riots, Dr Mahathir said that certain groups in the country thought they could do the same in Malaysia.

"In other countries, riots caused lawlessness and brought down governments, giving rise to new ones. This is what these groups want to happen in the country," Bernama quoted him as saying.

As such, Dr Mahathir said it was crucial that Malaysians preserve peace and avoid racial misunderstandings because no one would benefit from a riot-torn country.

Dr Mahathir said a peaceful

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Malaysia would generate greater development that would bring good to all.

He was addressing residents of Kampung Medan and nearby settlements at the Taman Medan playing field in Jalan Klang Lama here yesterday.

The Prime Minister's unannounced visit there was a pleasant surprise to residents of the various communities who thronged the field in droves to shake hands with him.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, In-

spector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai and Selangor police chief Datuk Nik Ismail Nik Yusoff.

While the situation in Jalan Klang Lama had improved, the Prime Minister said that certain groups were still trying to capitalise on the fragile situation to achieve their objectives through evil ways by staging attacks in other areas to infuriate residents and spark riots.

He appealed to residents of Taman Medan and nearby settlements to rebuild the goodwill that had existed there.

While visiting Kampung

Medan longhouses occupied by Indian residents, the Prime Minister said he was informed of their problems by Works Minister and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Dr Mahathir promised them that the Government would do its utmost to tackle their woes and urged them to maintain good relations with the Malay community there.

Meanwhile, a Barisan Nasional component party leader said that Dr Mahathir would chair a special meeting to discuss the recent clashes tomorrow at Putra World Trade Centre.