

# ***'Groups sought outside help to create trouble'***

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**KUALA SELANGOR:** Groups out to topple the Government have tried to enlist help from a neighbouring country to create public riots and violence in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

"These people told their friends in the neighbouring country they also wanted to create the same kind of chaotic situation here.

"This is because rioting and violence by irresponsible groups succeeded in overthrowing the government of the neighbouring

country," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that local anti-government groups would surely deny they planned the use of explosives, rioting and violence in their objective to topple the Government.

"But this is the same group of people seeking help from our neighbouring country and telling their foreign friends of the intention to copy the use of force," he told about 3,000 people gathered at a meet-the-people session in the Kuala Selangor covered sports stadium.

Also present were Selang-

or Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo, MCA Selangor chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Kuala Selangor Umno division chairman Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

Dr Mahathir said the police were forced to use harsh measures when irresponsible parties resorted to the use of riots and violence to destabilise the country.

"However, when the police applied a little force, they were criticised for abusing human rights.

"On the contrary, the hardhanded measures were

taken to prevent the violence from spreading and protect the safety of the majority," said Dr Mahathir.

He added that police were not an extreme group and did not oppress the public.

However, he warned that action would be taken against those who flaunt the law or try to create unrest.

"Malaysia is a country following the rule of law. The respect for law keeps the country safe and peaceful.

"Whoever chooses to go against the law has to face the courts and punishment," he said.