

# PM: ISA prevented threat

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Internal Security Act (ISA) has prevented an otherwise threat to national security as shown by yesterday's "Black 14" planned demonstration, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the ISA was more or less able to prevent the organisers of the illegal assembly from instigating others to take up a violent demonstration against the Government.

"The authorities knew that the organisers were planning a gathering of about 50,000 people to riot against the Government," he said after attending a Vaisakhi open house at Kelab Aman here.

He said certain opposition leaders went to a neighbouring country to promote that they were going to hold an "ala Indonesia" violent demonstration in Malaysia.

However, he said police had moved in swiftly and took action against certain leaders of the illegal assembly.

"They were able to prevent what the demonstrators were hoping to happen," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that without the leaders, the demonstration did not turn into a "planned" riot.

"This is because the demonstrators do not have people to instigate them to go against the Government," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were "peace-loving" people and hate to see the country being destroyed by a

minority group such as those who took up street demonstrations.

"I am sure Malaysians want to live in peace and harmony with each other without being disrupted by anti-government activities," he added.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir praised the Sikh community for their contributions before and after independence.

"They formed the security thrust of the country before by becoming policemen and

soldiers and play an important role now in the professional field by becoming doctors and lawyers," he said.

Vaisakhi is celebrated by Sikhs to commemorate the revelation of the Khalsa order in 1699.