

# Dr M exposes activities of greedy money speculators

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has exposed the activities of some speculators who are buying large sums of US dollars in anticipation of the Government devaluing the ringgit.

He said these people were also believed to be involved in spreading rumours that the Government would repeg the ringgit to the dollar because it was getting too strong compared to

the currencies of other neighbouring countries.

"Last month, they started spreading rumours that the ringgit will be repegged at RM4.20 (to a US dollar), before buying US dollars in the hope of making a quick profit.

"We know that this is happening but we will not devalue the ringgit just because speculators expect us to do it," he said after launching a Workers Day gathering at Stadi-

um Putra in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Asked if any specific group was responsible for the activities, Dr Mahathir said it involved both locals and foreign speculators.

"It seems that they are waiting for our ringgit to be devalued although the Finance Minister and I have repeatedly said that this will not happen," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the country would not submit to the pressure exerted by speculators to re-

peg the ringgit based on its stronger value compared to the currencies of its neighbours because Malaysian products were still competitive.

He said that the competitiveness of the products also depended on other factors including high productivity, political stability and good industrial relations.

He said even if the value of the ringgit was to increase further, Malaysian products could still

sustain its competitiveness without the ringgit having to be repegged.

In his speech at the gathering, Dr Mahathir said that there were attempts by some people to manipulate the money market, as they hoped to make quick profit.

"Although this is a way to make a profit, it is a very irresponsible act because what they are doing can damage our economy," he added.