

Extremists exist in PAS, says Mahathir

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'Impatient with democracy, they
want to topple govt by force'

By **V. Gayathry**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there are extremists among PAS members who resort to militancy to try to oust the government through violence.

The prime minister said the extremists do not have faith in the country's democratic process, and in their anxiousness to topple the government, they acquire training from abroad through alliances with the Taliban and the use of arms.

"There are some in PAS who choose to abide by the law and use democratic means, but the others who are extremists think that the democratic process is moving too slow and does

not benefit them," he said after opening MCA's 48th Annual General Assembly here today.

"This has left the government with no choice but to detain them as they are involved in murders, robberies and even bombings which we would never allow in the country."

Mahathir was asked to comment on the eight people, including a PAS youth chief, who are held under the Internal Security Act.

Yesterday, Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Norian Mai said the eight are suspected members of a Mujahidin group and had undergone military training in Afghanistan.

Among the incidents linked to the group is the bombings at Dataran Seni in Klang in July last year.