

PM slams former govt officers for ingratitude

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PUTRAJAYA: Some former civil servants who are now holding important offices in opposition parties enjoyed various privileges and were awarded land while in service, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said that most of them had already hatched plans to join opposition parties when they applied for the land as civil servants, but they kept that information to themselves.

"From the onset, these people had plans to join opposition parties, but while still in service, including as imams, they kept this information to themselves because they wanted to secure certain privileges and land.

"This culture is most despicable. It is like biting the hand that feeds you," he said when asked to comment on the exposure by former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib on Friday that several opposition leaders had been awarded land by the state during his tenure.

Speaking to reporters after launching the World-Space Digital Audio Broad-

casting Service, Dr Mahathir said they were now teaching their followers to behave in the same way towards the Government.

Muhammad said he was willing to reveal the full list of people who had received land during his 11-year tenure as Selangor menteri besar.

He said these people were awarded land because the state believed they could make a major contribution towards the community, especially the Malays.

He said he could still remember the names of several opposition leaders who were awarded land in the 1990s.

They included PAS vice-president and its state assemblyman for Sungai Burung Datuk Dr Hassan Ali and PAS state assemblyman for Gombak Setia Datuk Ismail Kamus.

Others, he said, were PAS life member Datuk Dr Harun Din and Parti Keadilan Nasional supreme council member Dr Badrol Amin.

He said the state had even helped to finance Dr Hassan in his doctoral studies in the United States.