

# Opposition members took advantage: PM

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By Husna Yusop

PUTRAJAYA, Sat: Some opposition members were wolves in sheep's clothing while they were serving in government, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"They actually had the intention to join the opposition but when they were in the government, for example, as imams, they concealed their intentions and asked for many things for themselves.

"They were treated nicely but they were never thankful, we helped them but they bit our hand ... they

taught this to all their leaders ... this is a very bad culture," he said after launching Asiaspace Dotcom Sdn Bhd's WorldSpace Digital Audio Broadcasting Service here today.

He was asked to comment on former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib's statement that some opposition leaders were given land by the state government during his time in the 1990s.

They included Sungai Burung assemblyman and PAS vice-president Datuk Dr Hasan Ali, assemblyman for Gombak Setia Datuk Ismail Kamus, PAS member Datuk Dr Harun Din and

Keadilan supreme council member Dr Badrol Amin Bahron.

Meanwhile, Mahathir said the government wants to ensure there is no decline in the economy as a shrinking economy over two consecutive quarters signals the country is in recession.

"We hope in the fourth quarter, we will achieve little but sufficient growth to ensure an overall positive growth for the year."

Yesterday, Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz said the country's economic growth has slipped into negative territory for the first time in three years.