

# Speak out, silent majority told

STAR

5 MAR 2001

PUTRAJAYA: The Government will take action against those threatening to overthrow it through street demonstrations if the people want it to, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the silent majority would have to make known their position on this matter.

The Prime Minister did not elaborate on how they should make their stand known but said there were also many who seemed to support this lawless action.

"They saw what happened in a neighbouring country and appeared to be happy to see the chaos, the killings of Muslims and Christians, Dayaks and Madurese.

"They seemed disappointed that there is no violence here," he said after launching the Fourth Landscape Day at Dataran Putra yesterday.

He was commenting on a report in *Utusan Malaysia* quoting Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor as saying that the party wanted to organise big street demonstrations to topple the Government.

Dr Mahathir said Ezam's statement proved that Keadilan was willing to forsake stability and economic progress just to free Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"They disregard the law, disrupt peace and cause problems for business people and petty traders ... what democracy, what social justice (is this)?"

"We want to maintain peace, they are not bothered about peace. To them the country is not important, the economy is

not important, social security is not important," he added.

Dr Mahathir said it appeared that Keadilan did not have any patriotic feeling and was getting too big headed and arrogant because of the praises heaped on it by the foreign media.

Commenting on reports that the Internet news portal Malaysiakini.com was linked to funds from currency speculator George Soros, Dr Mahathir said the Government had known about it for a long time.

He said people who love Ma-

laysia should condemn Malaysiakini because it had betrayed the country.

On Friday, Malaysiakini's former news editor Chong Yen Long exposed that Malaysiakini received RM188,000 from the Media Development Loan Fund, which is believed to be partly funded by Soros.

Later in Jitra, Dr Mahathir said he hoped that PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor would get the inspiration to meet him for the proposed Malay unity talks while performing the *hajj* in Mecca.

"I hope that he will get the inspiration to meet me when he is facing the Kaabah and told that this is the best action.

"I urged him to listen to the call and say that he wants to meet me when he returns," Dr Mahathir said when simultaneously opening the annual general meetings of the 135 branches in the Kubang Pasu Umno division at Jitra Hall here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said it would be perfectly normal if the two parties agreed on some things and disagreed on

others when they meet to talk.

He said PAS might use his attacks on the party as a reason to call off the talks.

During his 75-minute speech, Dr Mahathir had alleged that historically PAS was formed not for the sake of religion but because its leaders wanted to stand as candidates in the general election.

To Umno members, he urged them to recall why the party was formed, why **STAR** joined the party and the benefits they got from the party's struggles.