

KL rally a last-ditch plea by opposition, says Dr M
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CYBERJAYA: FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the rally on Saturday as a "last-ditch desperate plea" by the opposition as it knew that it will be defeated in the next general election.

"(Datuk Seri) Anwar (Ibrahim) organises a rally because he knows that with the democratic process here and the next elections, he just cannot win.

"He tries to emulate the Arab Spring by taking to the streets in the hope of overthrowing the government but our government is not like those of the Arab nations.

"This is not a dictatorial government. They were elected and chosen by the rakyat," he said here yesterday.

Demonstrations were allowed in a democratic country like Malaysia, provided there was a strong basis for them, Dr Mahathir added.

"Some people are saying that this demonstration was about Shamsidar Taharin (wife of Parti Keadilan Rakyat deputy president Azmin Ali).

"Just because there is a case (involving Shamsidar) in court, they want to hold demonstrations. This is not right."

Several quarters claimed that the rally was the opposition's tactic to prevent Shamsidar from testifying in court over a defamation suit filed against Anwar.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was briefed by Setia Haruman Sdn Bhd senior executives on the latest and future developments in Cyberjaya.

Dr Mahathir said the country had to focus on training the right talent to overcome the shortage of skilled and trained workers faced by several companies there.

"We are capable of training exceptional talent. People may not know this but much of the animation work for the Oscar-nominated Life of Pi was done here in Cyberjaya.

He added that Malaysia should continue to adopt the "Look East" policy to be on a par with other countries.

Setia Haruman plans to build more than 3,600 affordable homes by 2016 in an attempt to draw Malaysians to not only work for multinational companies here but also reside in the growing township.

Its chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Mustapha Kamal, said the city would feature a mosque, dialysis centre and also a cemetery as part of its long-term project.

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