

No question of second DPM

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By **BALAN MOSES**

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it was not necessary to dispute the call by the MCA Youth for the creation of a second Deputy Prime Minister's post as the issue did not arise.

"What is the use of disputing the issue when the matter does not arise at all?" he asked.

The Prime Minister was commenting on reports of a continuing verbal feud between MCA Youth leader Datuk Lee Kim Sai and Umno Youth leader Datuk Haji Suhaimi Kamaruddin on the proposal to

appoint a second Deputy Prime Minister from the MCA.

Speaking to reporters at his Titi Gajah residence here this afternoon, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there was nothing to be gained by engaging in a verbal dispute over the proposal. A resolution on the proposal was passed by the recent MCA Youth assembly.

'Unreasonable'

Asked if he would agree to meet both Datuk Lee and Datuk Haji Suhaimi to resolve the issue, he said he would meet them if they wanted to do so.

Datuk Lee recently suggested that a meeting be arranged with the Prime Minister to discuss the MCA Youth

proposal.

Datuk Haji Suhaimi said on Tuesday that the proposal was "motivated by racial consideration and is an unhealthy trend."

He said that as the leader of Umno Youth, he would counter any unreasonable demand made by any quarter.

Yesterday, Perak Umno Youth protested against the proposal.

On the recent clash between some army and police personnel in Kangar, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the matter would be settled using normal administrative procedures.

He added that he would give his advice to the parties concerned through the existing channels in both the army and the police.