

# Musa told to settle Berjaya- Usno rift

NST 17 APR 1982

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.** — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed his deputy Datuk Musa Hitam to settle the dispute between the two component parties of the Barisan Nasional in Sabah — Usno and Berjaya.

He said the party leadership would try and resolve the dispute, but stressed that it would be settled quietly within the Barisan Nasional.

He said the matter could be settled through negotiations with the two parties involved.

## Expel

On his visit to Sabah on Wednesday, Dr Mahathir was handed a memorandum by Usno on the problems faced by the party in the election.

The Prime Minister refused to comment on the contents of the memorandum but said it related to intra-party problems.

It is widely believed that the problem could be about the fielding of inde-

pendent candidates by Barisan component parties in Sabah.

Usno has been protesting against Berjaya's fielding of independent candidates in the five constituencies allocated to Usno — Kota Belud, Marudu, Silam, Hillir Padas and Lubuk Sugut.

It is believed that Datuk Musa, who will be visiting Sabah on Sunday, would try and resolve the dispute.

To another question, Dr Mahathir said he had sent directives to all Barisan State directors to expel members who contest the election as independents.

The Barisan Nasional leader also stressed that "those independents who contest in the hope of rejoining the Barisan are only digging their own graves."

"Barisan Nasional will not accept these people," he stressed.

He said the Barisan Nasional would not accept the five candidates who are contesting against Usno "even if they win."