

I'm too busy to visit Sabah now, says Mahathir

517 NOV 1963

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he cannot visit Sabah yet because he has a "very heavy" schedule.

"I have no time yet because of the heavy schedule," he told reporters after launching a locally-assembled computer here.

Reporters had asked him whether he would visit Sabah to help resolve

the State's seven-month political crisis as suggested by some people, including former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn and Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang.

On recent contradicting statements made by two Umno Supreme Council members — party vice-president Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Supreme Council member Kadir Sheikh Fadzir — Dr Mahathir said he could

not comment on newspaper reports.

Last week, Encik Kadir, who is the Deputy Foreign Minister, said the ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) would not be accepted into the Barisan Nasional unless it forms a coalition with Usno and Berjaya.

Encik Kadir had also termed the PBS as being "chauvinistic and power crazy."

However, in Johore Baru yesterday, Datuk Abdullah said the crisis could be easily solved if PBS was accepted into the Barisan.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan chairman, said he could not comment on newspaper reports because "we cannot quite believe in them."

He said newspapers often emphasised on matters "which we do not

want them to. It is not balanced reporting."

And he added: "It is not fair to me. Newspaper reporting should be more balanced."

Dr Mahathir also said the Umno Supreme Council meeting on Monday would discuss "everything related to the country's political development, including the MCA crisis."