

# CAN DECIDE

Govt has a say on whether to make BMF report public



Dr Mahathir ... Cabinet to discuss report

By MARIA SAMAD

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — The Government has the prerogative to decide whether or not to make the BMF final report public, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Government directed that the Ahmad Noordin Committee of Inquiry be set up to look into

the BMF loans scandal because it was the major shareholder of Bank Bumiputra, the parent company.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after a luncheon at the Pan-Pacific Hotel here. Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, also toured the \$150 million hotel which opened for business yesterday.

"The BMF final report is a report to Bank Bumiputra so I have to wait for the bank to submit it to me," he said when asked if the Government would

make the final report public.

"But I suppose the Government can have a say on whether to make the report public since it is the major shareholder.

"Although the management of the bank rests with the managers, we can't simply pass the matter over to the management and treat it as their responsibility," he said.

Dr Mahathir added: "But we will act on the advice of the bank's legal advisers. Of course this will only be an advice, and not a directive to us.

"The Government still has the prerogative whether or not to make the report public," he said.

On the report itself, Dr Mahathir said he had not seen it yet. "I understand that it is bulky. So I will have to wait for the executive summary first."

He said the Cabinet would discuss the report.

On his audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Saturday, Dr Mahathir said that it was to brief the King on the Baling incident.

The King was also shown a video recording of the incident.