

# BN hq to decide on Sabah seats

By ZAINON AHMAD

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — The Barisan Nasional headquarters will finalise the allocation of parliamentary seats among the three Sabah component parties for the general election.

Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said requests for more seats would also be decided by the headquarters.

At a recent State Barisan meeting chaired by Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, who is also Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president, the PBS was allocated 14 seats, Usno five and Berjaya one.

Usno and Berjaya protested against the allocation made at the meeting which Berjaya president Datuk Mohamed Noor Mansoor claimed his party was not invited.

## History

Usno has asked for three more seats.

"All requests will be considered by the Barisan Nasional headquarters," Dr Mahathir said at a Press conference after chairing another meeting of the State Barisan.

At the meeting PBS was represented by Datuk Pairin, deputy presidents Mark Koding and Chau Tet On, secretary-general Joseph Kurup and treasurer Bernard Dompok. Usno was repre-

was happy the three parties had agreed to use the Barisan symbol in the general election.

The meeting discussed the allocation of seats, how the Barisan is to operate in Sabah and the procedures to adopt during meetings of component parties.

"All parties have been advised against fielding independent candidates and we have agreed not to accept them," he said.

On whether co-operation among the Sabah parties in the Barisan would eventually evolve into a partnership in the Government, he said that was for the Sabah parties to decide.

"Sabah has a very different history where component parties have not participated in the State Government. Of course, we would like to see everyone participate," he said.

He was happy with the visit, saying it was meaningful for improving relations between the State and Federal Governments.

sented by deputy president Datuk Sakaran Dandai, assistant secretary-general Osu Sukam and supreme council member Ampong Puyon while Berjaya was represented by supreme council members Senator Wong Yau Ket and Yapin Gimpton and executive secretary Yusof Yaacob.

Dr Mahathir said he