

PM assures Sabah folk

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Thurs. — The Prime Minister assured the people of Sabah of their safety following a spate of bomb blasts and demonstrations in Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan and possible acts of arson in Tawau yesterday.

He said the police were there to look after the safety of the people.

There was no necessity

for the Federal Government to intervene in Sabah, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad added that the Government had no plans to send reinforcements to Sabah to defuse the situation there as the police "are there and are looking after the people".

Yesterday nine bombs exploded in the Sabah State capital of Kota Kinabalu, injuring six people. Two more bombs

went off this morning.

"It is not necessary (to send reinforcements.) We will send them if it is necessary. It is up to the police... they should advise us," Dr Mahathir said in response to questions from reporters after opening an art exhibition "*Ibrahim Hussein: A Retrospective*" at the National Art Gallery here.

Usno and Berjaya had yesterday urged the Federal Government to intervene in Sabah immediately to stabilise the political situation.

In making the call, Usno deputy president Datuk Haji Sakaran Daidai had said that the situation in Kota Kinabalu was "out of control".

Dr Mahathir also dismissed an accusation by Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang that "irresponsible people have conspired and plotted to topple the PBS Government". Mr Lim had also called for measures to be taken against these people.

Asked if there was any truth to this conspiracy charge, the Prime Minister exclaimed: "Oh my God! What conspiracy? What do I know about these things?"

He also dismissed Mr Lim's claim that the demonstrations held in Kota Kinabalu yesterday were part of a plan to force the Federal Government to take over Sabah and declare emergency rule.

"Ask Kit Siang... he seems to know," the Prime Minister added.