

# Mahathir for Sabah with 'Umno formula'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister, who is making an urgent visit to Sabah, may provide the solution to the State's political woes.

It is learnt that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will leave for Kota Kinabalu tomorrow armed with a political solution that was worked out today by the Umno Supreme Council.

Dr Mahathir, speaking to newsmen after chairing the six-hour meeting of the council, said a solution had been formulated but declined to disclose details.

He added that he was unable to reveal the details because it had not been presented to and agreed upon by the political parties concerned.

However, he said he would be presenting this "Umno formula" to the leaders of the political parties in Sabah and hoped that it would help resolve the political differences and diffuse the tension in Sabah.

"I will meet the political parties concerned because it (the crisis) involves the parties and not the people," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister, however, did give an indication of what was in store when he did not rule out the possibility of a coalition Government in Sabah as a way of resolving the on-going crisis.

However, as an afterthought, Dr Mahathir

brushed it off by saying: "Maybe a coalition is one way ... but we have not discussed this. We had better not negotiate through the Press."

Tension in Sabah has been mounting following a series of bomb explosions and the holding of demonstrations in various parts of the State since March 12 resulting in a dusk-to-dawn curfew being clamped on Kota Kinabalu.

So far three people

have been reported killed in the unrest.

Meanwhile, sources in the Sabah state capital confirmed this evening that the Prime Minister was expected tomorrow.

They said he was expected to attend a briefing on the security situation in the State at the police headquarters in Kepyayan.

It is learnt that he would also meet leaders of political parties.