

# PM: Govt will restore peace

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Federal Government would act to restore peace in Sabah and ensure that State elections are held there.

He said although the Government was worried over the developments in Sabah, it had to be cautious in its actions because politics was also involved and not just security.

He said the Federal Go-

vernment would not take the side of any group in Sabah and reiterated that emergency rule would not be imposed there if it could be avoided.

Dr Mahathir, who was winding up the debate on the Royal Address in Parliament, said although the situation in Sabah was tense, the overall security situation was under control.

If necessary, he said,

more security personnel would be sent there.

He said the police had so far arrested about 800 people in Sabah and that the non-citizens picked up would be deported.

He also gave the assurance that legal action would be taken against anybody found to be involved in criminal activities.

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government was trying to seek a political

solution but its efforts were hindered by certain quarters there.

"These people have their own way of finding a solution and the Federal Government hopes their method will fail," he added.

When approached by reporters outside Parliament House, Dr Mahathir said he might bring forward his visit to the State, sched-

uled for "sometime next month.

He said he was monitoring the situation in Sabah through the police who had been giving him all the information he needed.

Dr Mahathir said the Sabah situation was also discussed in great detail at the weekly Cabinet meeting today.

"We made certain recommendations but I cannot reveal them," he said.