

PM: I'll look into Sabah's WOES

IPOH, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad intends to find out the problems facing Sabah and how they can be resolved when he visits the State next month.

The Prime Minister said he would also view development projects and progress in the State.

He told a Press conference here that the police were investigating the source of the recent spate of bombings in the State, which occurred mostly in Kota Kinabalu.

To a question of whether accepting the ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah into the Barisan Nasional would have prevented the bombings, Dr Mahathir said:

"In the first place, we have to decide whether the bombings are political or not and who is behind it.

"Is there any relationship with the PBS? These things have to be studied. We don't make a decision because of some bombings. I don't think it's fair to blame anybody at this moment."

Asked whether he would be worried about his safety during the Sabah visit, scheduled for the first week

of next month, the Prime Minister said:

"I don't think anybody is in danger. I don't think I will be in danger.

"The police will say so if I am in danger. I don't see any problem."

In KOTA KINABALU, Chief Minister and PBS chief Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan welcomed Dr Mahathir's coming visit.

"His decision to visit Sabah is good because after all the State is part of the Malaysian federation," he said.

He said, however, that the State Government had not been officially informed of the visit.

Datuk Pairin hoped the State Government would be told so that preparations could be made.

He also praised police actions yesterday in controlling demonstrators.

"They acted well under the circumstances and I am full of praise for them," he said.

The police had remained calm when about 1,000 demonstrators broke through their cordon outside a mosque in Sembulan.