

Dr M: Letter accepting resignation of Musa sent

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has sent a letter to Datuk Musa Hitam giving approval for his (Datuk Musa's) resignation from the Cabinet.

The letter, dated March 18, was sent to London. "It states that his resignation from the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister has been accepted," Dr Mahathir said today.

"However, he added, he had not decided on who would be appointed to the posts.

Datuk Musa tendered his resignation from his Cabinet posts and as Umno deputy-president in February before leaving for Mecca to perform the *umrah*.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir has briefed Selangor Barisan National leaders and Umno divisional chiefs on the distribution of constituencies for the coming general election.

They were briefed on the methods for allocation of constituencies to the various Barisan component parties, he told reporters after a meeting with Selangor Barisan leaders and a 2½-hour dialogue session with State Umno divisional leaders at Wisma Felda at the end of his one-day official visit to the State.

Selangor was the 10th State he had visited over the past two months.

He said he spoke on "several matters that needed to be discussed" at the meetings.

"There were some discussion on certain views of the public which could become national issues," he said.

Asked when the general election would be held, Dr Mahathir said it was discussed but no date had been fixed.

He said he was glad to note the close co-operation between Barisan component parties in the State.

"They have also set up the election machinery in preparation for the general election," he added.