

# Ministry awaiting report on **STAR** 2 SEP 1987 mosque fires: PM

KUANTAN, Tues. — Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed~~ said today that the Home Ministry was waiting for a report from the Pahang Government on the spate of fires at five mosques in Pahang over the past two days.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said he did not know who was involved and "I do not want to hazard a guess."

He was speaking to reporters at Parliament House after opening the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference.

In Kuantan, Menteri Besar Datuk Khalil Yaakob — who had said that the fires at two mosques in Pekan were the work of arsonists — is expected to issue an official statement tomorrow when he accompanies the Regent of Pahang on a visit to the gutted mosques in the Triang district.

Datuk Khalil chaired an emergency meeting of the State Security Council today to discuss the fires but declined to comment on the incidents.

Fire broke out simultaneously at 2.30am yesterday at Masjid Kampung Kuala Triang, Masjid Kampung Bohor Baru, and Masjid Kampung Nyak, Chenur, in the Triang district.

In the Pekan area on Sunday, Masjid Kampung Serambi was gutted and Masjid Kampung Temir Tengah, 15km away, was partially burnt.

Police have been ordered to step up patrols at all mosques in the State.

State police chief Senior Asst Comm Haji Mohamed Som Sulaiman said the imams and committee members of most mosques had started taking turns to guard their buildings at night.

He said there was no report of any mosque being burnt today.

He added that police had yet to establish the motive for the suspected cases of arson.