

# Probe will take some time: Mahathir

By OUR REPORTER



THE White Paper on the detention of 103 people under the Internal Security Act (ISA) will include some findings of the police investigations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The contents will depend on the police reports but investigations will take some time, he told reporters after visiting the research centre of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia in Sungai Buloh.

"The White Paper is necessary as we need to emphasise and detail out certain things," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Affairs Minister.

Last week, the Prime Minister said if it is not possible to present the paper in Parliament during the current session, then it might be issued after the session.

The Government may decide not to wait until the next session as it is too far off. The current session will end in December while the next sitting is scheduled for March 1988.

According to the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, in accordance with the Malaysian practice, a White Paper need not be tabled in Parliament unless there is a motion proposing that it be done.

On the present controversy over the punch card system for government staff, a system which he introduced soon after he became the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it has been effective.

"To me, it is effective. We are studying it, and if there are weaknesses, then we will try to overcome them. But it will not be abolished," he added.

The Prime Minister also said that he is assuming all the duties of his deputy Encik Ghafar Baba, who is seeking medical treatment overseas. This include Encik Ghafar's National and Rural Development portfolio.

Encik Ghafar has undergone a successful coronary by-pass operation in London.