

Kelantan Govt in control of situation

PM: Problem can be solved

BY NURAINA SAMAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the problem affecting the transfer of 20 administrative officers in Kelantan which has turned into a controversy can be resolved.

The Prime Minister said this when he was asked to comment on the transfer issue. He was speaking to reporters after launching the Expo Electronika '88 at the new RTM earth satellite complex here.

He said: "We are not worried. We can resolve the matter ... it is not a problem."

He said the State Government was in control and indicated that the Federal Government would intervene when the need arose.

"We will do whatever we can when the need arises," he added.

Dr Mahathir, however, declined to elaborate on how the Federal Government would help resolve the matter.

The controversy surrounding the transfer arose when the Kelantan Public Services Commission on Dec 13 revoked the transfer order issued by the Kelantan State Executive Council.

The State Executive Council had two days' earlier revised the transfer list is-

sued on Dec 4 by the State Secretary.

In Pasir Mas, Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaacob declared that he will continue to be the Menteri Besar for as long as he enjoys the confidence of the rakyat.

He said that as Menteri Besar, he would safeguard the rakyat's trust in him.

"I will not budge from nor shirk my responsibility as the servant of the rakyat," he said to applause from the crowd at a function honouring him on his recent conferment of an award carrying the title "Tan Sri" by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He also urged the people not to be alarmed over the present developments and to let the Government resolve it.

Struggle

"So long as you are behind us, God willing, we will succeed in facing the challenges before us.

"We will continue with our struggle to uphold the interests of the people," he added.

The function was held at the residence of Senator Datuk Haji Hussein Ahmad, the Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister, near here.

Earlier, Datuk Haji Hussein said that there were quarters who were out to wrest more power from the State Government.

"The people of Kelantan will stand solidly behind the Menteri Besar to ensure that the power of the rakyat is safeguarded," he said.