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PM wants State Govt and Palace to mend rift

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the Kelantan Government and the Palace to mend their rift because a prolonged dispute would adversely affect the people.

It was for this reason that the Prime Minister called a meeting with Mentri Besar Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaacob and Kelantan Umno MPs and Assemblymen at his office here on Wednesday, Dr Mahathir's political secretary Mohamed Noor Azam said today.

"The meeting expressed its concern over the misunderstanding between the State Government and the Palace and discussed ways to improve ties between them," he said.

"The meeting was of the view that the misunderstanding would not result in any benefit for the people. The people will end up losers in the dispute," he added.

Encik Mohamed Noor was commenting on a report in *The Star* today that Tan Sri Mohamed would write to the Sultan of Kelantan to

seek an audience to resolve the "long standing dispute between the State Government and the Palace".

The report, quoting sources, said the decision was taken after all the Kelantan Umno MPs and Assemblymen, except for Kok Lanas MP Datuk Abdullah Ahmad who is overseas, met Dr Mahathir.

Among the matters said to have been discussed were the now-resolved transfers of the State's civil servants, the political climate in the State and the relationship between the State Government and the Palace.

Encik Mohamed Noor said the meeting made no mention of the *Semangat '46* group.

The sources were also quoted as saying that the MPs and Assemblymen resolved that they would stay united in facing "any game played by the *Semangat '46* group."

"The meeting unanimously agreed that the Mentri Besar, as head of the State Government, should have an audience with the Sultan to mend the rift," he added.