

# Dr M: Musa's bid normal

NSunT 25 FEB 1990

By SUDHEERAN  
CHANDRAN

SEREMBAN, Sat. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described Datuk Musa Hitam's announcement of his bid for one of the three Umno vice-president posts as a "normal matter".

He said the usual practice within Umno was to allow for contests at that level, which meant that any member who wished to contest one of the vice-presidencies was free to do so.

"In Umno, we allow contests at that level. Anyone who wants to contest can contest. This is a normal matter and I have nothing more to say."

"Our main priority now is to prepare for the general election," he said when asked to comment on a report which quoted the former Deputy Prime Minister as saying that he

was prepared to contest for a vice-president's post if he received enough nominations.

Datuk Musa, who is Malaysia's envoy to the United Nations, was also reported to have said that he may just contest for a supreme council post.

At another function Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, when asked for his com-

## □ BARISAN WILL WIN, SAYS DR M: P3

ments, said Datuk Musa had every right to contest.

"I feel Datuk Musa wants to offer his services to the party and Umno members will now have a wider choice of candidates."

He said he had full confidence and trust in Datuk Musa's capability to contest for the post.

Dr Mahathir was in Seremban for a two-hour

meeting with Negri Sembilan Umno leaders. He then met State Barisan National leaders for another closed-door briefing at Wisma Negri here.

Speaking to newsmen later at Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa Haji Abdul Samad's residence, he also dismissed suggestions that relations between the Federal Government and the PBS-ruled Sabah Government were strained following the recent arrest of Sabah Foundation director Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan on charges of corruption.

"Our relations are still good. It must be remembered that the Federal Government also took action against malpractices during the time of Tun Datu Mustapha.

"If we are to accept the rule of law, then we must not hesitate to take action

against our own people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government had, in the past, also taken action against a certain Menteri Besar in Peninsular Malaysia, which resulted in the person being charged for corruption in court.

"This shows that we have taken action even against leaders in the peninsula," he said.

The Prime Minister also explained that his attack against certain people who harboured anti-Federal sentiments, while opening the Umno general assembly recently, was directed at "certain individuals" and not at any one party.

"The statement was in no way connected to the legal action being taken against anyone there ... it was just my own view," he added.