

PM: Lorrain is very frustrated

KUANTAN, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the former Bumiputra Malaysia Finance Limited chairman Lorrain Esme Osman is a very frustrated man.

Commenting on a report in the *New Straits Times* today, Dr Mahathir said he had come to this conclusion after reading the news report this morning.

"It seems that Lorrain is frustrated. He has been in jail for the last five years and has not been tried.

"He appears to be frustrated because the culprit who benefited most from the BMF fiasco is still free," he told reporters after meeting State Barisan Nasional candidates at the State Umno headquarters here.

"The culprit even dreams

of becoming the Prime Minister while Lorrain has taken the brunt of the blame. Of course, anyone in his shoes will feel extremely frustrated."

On Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's suggestion that a royal commission of inquiry into the BMF scandal be set up, Dr Mahathir said the Government had set up a commission, which was headed by the then Audi-

tor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin who was now aligned to Semangat 46.

"If Tengku Razaleigh was not implicated in the report by the commission, we fear whether Tan Sri Ahmad's stand on the report has any link between Tengku Razaleigh and the findings of the commission."

On Tengku Razaleigh's allegations during a cera-

mah in Bukit Sekilau here last night that one of the reasons for the PBS withdrawal from Barisan Nasional was the Federal Government's refusal to return Labuan to Sabah, the Prime Minister said this was Tengku Razaleigh's personal view.

"He can tell everyone that he will return Labuan to Sabah if he comes to power."