

ALL MALAYSIANS HELPED SABAH GROW: MAHATHIR

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KOTA KINABALU, Fri. — **Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad** said today the people of Sabah should realise that Malaysians from other parts of the country who come here contribute to the state's development and progress.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia could progress because the Government opened its doors to foreign investors who not only brought capital and technology but also expertise.

Malaysians from other states serving in Sabah helped directly in developing the state and exposed the locals to skills

in various fields, he told newsmen at the **Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel** before leaving for **Kuala Lumpur**. He arrived here yesterday to open **Usno's** 22nd general assembly.

Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying that it was not fair to think that Malaysians from other states had no place in Sabah.

He added that Malaysians should not be narrow-minded.

"If we allow Filipinos and Indonesians to come in to develop the state, why are Malaysians from outside Sabah not accepted?" he asked.

On the Sabah Govern-

ment's request for an increase in oil royalty from the present five per cent, Dr Mahathir said that every state must remember that it was part of one nation and accept that the country's wealth, wherever it was found, belonged to the people.

He added: "Not every state in Malaysia is rich. Sabah, too, was very backward when achieving independence within Malaysia.

"At that time, much of the revenue from the peninsula was used to finance development in Sabah.

"Now that Sabah has developed and has become rich, it is only appropriate

that it helps develop other states. This is the concept of nationhood."

In allotting funds, Dr Mahathir said, the Federal Government took into account all factors, including the needs of each state, the country's financial position and the overall interest of the nation.

On claims that the Federal Government was plotting to topple the Sabah Government, Dr Mahathir said it was only the opinion of one person.

Dr Mahathir repeated his advice to Sabah politicians not to fan racial, parochial and religious sentiments.

Asked whether the Fed-

eral Government would take preventive measures if sensitive issues continued to be raised, Dr Mahathir said: "The Government will not use its powers under the Internal Security Act unless it is absolutely necessary."

On requests by **Barisan Nasional** component parties in Sabah that they be allowed to use their respective party symbols and not the **Barisan** **dac-ing** in the parliamentary elections, he said this would be discussed.

Dr Mahathir said the move to make the **Labuan** Federal Territory a tax haven was planned three years ago.