

## PM: PBS leaders fear Umno will expose them

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that PBS leaders object to Umno spreading its wings to Sabah because they fear their wrongdoings will be exposed.

"Until now, PBS leaders have been running the state according to their whims and fancies with no one checking on them," the Prime Minister and Umno president said.

The PBS leaders were now worried that Umno in Sabah would expose malpractices by some of them, he added.

Dr Mahathir said that Umno would be cautious in forming divisions in Sabah.

"We will take into consideration peculiarities of Sabah before setting up divisions in the state," he told newsmen after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting.

He said that Sabah was a part of Malaysia and the other states accepted Sabahans as Malaysians.

Sabah was "not just for Sabahans alone," he said, adding that Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, the brother of Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, seemed to have this notion.

Dr Mahathir said he had often been asked by Dr Jeffrey Kitingan whether a Sabahan could become a Prime Minister.

"My answer is a Sabahan cannot become a Prime Minister. A Malaysian can," he added.

Dr Mahathir said he had never considered himself a "Kedah Prime Minister of Malaysia" and similarly there was no place for a "Sabah Prime Minister of Malaysia."

To a question, Dr Mahathir said a provision in the Sabah state constitution which barred its elected representatives from joining other parties unless they vacated their seats only applied to state assemblymen.

"The ruling is applicable only to assemblymen so Umno MPs can join Umno," he said.