

Politics behind move for two deputy MBs: Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the appointment of two deputy mentris besar in Kelantan is politically motivated.

"I do not see any other reason for such an appointment. I suppose it is a way to create more jobs.

"The deputy mentri besar has no work. The appointment of two is for political reasons," he said.

Asked whether the people of Kelantan would benefit by the appointment of the two deputies, the Prime Minister said:

"The party (PAS) will benefit as 20 per cent of the deputy's allowance will go to the party."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after delivering his keynote address at the opening of the 17th Asian Advertising Congress here.

On suggestions by several Umno State liaison committees that divisions endorse candidates selected by the committees for the coming party elections, Dr Mahathir said:

"To win, the candidate should receive support from all states and not only from the state that nominated him. I do not see any problem in this practice."

It was reported that the Pahang liaison committee had recommended that all Umno divisions in Pahang renominate the six incumbent Supreme Council members from the state to contest.

The committee had also recommended that the divisions nominate either Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob or Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for the party vice-presidency.

The Kedah Umno liaison committee has also proposed that Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid contest the vice-presidency.

Dr Mahathir also said that he had not decided on Datuk Seri Najib's position as Umno Youth chief.