

Kelantan and Sabah left out of meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Federal Government will not invite Kelantan and Sabah to its meetings with mentris besar and chief ministers, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said these meetings were to co-ordinate activities between "the Barisan Nasional-controlled Federal Government and state governments run by the coalition."

"They are not statutory meetings. They are not required to be held under the law, so we are not in-

viting certain states," he told newsmen after chairing a three-hour meeting between Cabinet ministers and mentris besar and chief ministers at Parliament House.

Dr Mahathir said Kelantan Menteri Besar Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan had no right to attend the meetings.

He said Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Haji Sakaran Dandai would represent Sabah and Youth and Sports Minister Haji

Annur Musa would represent Kelantan.

Tan Sri Sakaran is the Usno deputy president while Haji Annur is the Nilam Puri Umno division chairman in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said the Kelantan and Sabah governments could turn to "existing normal channels" to resolve "normal matters" (with the Federal Government). He did not elaborate.

The Prime Minister said such meetings were introduced after 1970 when the state governments were controlled by

the Barisan, including Kelantan when PAS joined the Barisan.

The PBS, he said, had won the Sabah state elections (in 1985) as an opposition party but had indicated that it wanted to join the Barisan.

"So, we allowed the Chief Minister from the PBS to join the meetings as the PBS later joined the Barisan, too," said Dr Mahathir.

However, he said, the PBS had now left the Barisan and as such it was difficult to invite the party for talks.