

FEDERAL OFFICERS TO SERVE KELANTAN

By Paul Gabriel

ALOR STAR, Mon. — The Government will appoint several federal officers to take charge of specific tasks in Kelantan, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said these officers might also head federal-level committees to be set up in the state.

He said the number of such officers would depend "on their responsibilities and duties."

"We could have one officer holding a certain post and more for the other posts depending on the responsibilities," Dr Mahathir told newsmen after opening the Kubang Pasu Umno delegates meeting here.

Dr Mahathir had been asked whether the Government would appoint a federal secretary for Kelantan, as had been done for Sabah and Sarawak in March.

He said the Government did not intend to do so, adding that the posts

in Sabah and Sarawak had been revived after being abolished several years ago.

(On March 28, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji announced the appointments of Transport Ministry deputy secretary-general Shamsuddin Othman

and secretary of the Cabinet division in the PM's Department Zawai Mahmuddin as federal secretaries for Sabah and Sarawak respectively. He added that both men would act as liaison officers between Kuala Lumpur and both states and would be directly responsible to the

PM's Department.)

Dr Mahathir said the federal officers to be assigned to duties in Kelantan would assist Youth and Sports Minister Haji Annuar Musa who had been picked to represent the state in the Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers meetings.

Addressing the delegates earlier, Dr Mahathir said he expected the present Kelantan Government to betray the trust of the people there "although they seem to be championing Islam now."

"They are talking of cutting down expenditure, but the amount saved is very meagre compared with the needs of Kelantan," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said there was no genuine cooperation between PAS and Semangat 46, adding that PAS had only "surrendered" the Deputy Mentri Besar's post to Semangat after the palace intervened.

He said although the Kelantan people wanted to support Umno, they were "obsessed" with the idea of having a representative from the state becoming a Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that Umno was prepared to accept Semangat and PAS members into the party for the sake of Malay unity.