

Teachers using politics to avoid transfer: Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The teachers in Kelantan who refused to be transferred to Sabah are using politics as an excuse to remain in Kelantan because they have "become comfortable" there, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"They like to stay put, so they're citing politics and other excuses," the Prime Minister said.

Speaking to newsmen after launching the *Kampungku* project at Angkasapura, Dr Mahathir said it was common for teachers to give excuses to avoid transfers.

Fifteen of the 26 teachers in Kelantan who have

been transferred to Sabah have refused to accept the posting, claiming that it was politically motivated.

The other 11 have agreed to start work in Sabah on Jan 1.

On Friday, Education Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said the 15 could resign and accept job offers from the Kelantan Government.

The Kelantan Government had reportedly offered jobs to the 26.

Dr Mahathir said the teachers should realise that the Ministry still had to fill teaching vacancies in Sabah even if they rejected the transfer.

"They should be reason-

able as they're not the only ones being transferred.

"About 1,000 teachers are moved around from state to state each year," he said.

On the Opposition's continued efforts to discredit the recent election results, Dr Mahathir said: "This is another common trait (of the opposition).

"This group has nothing better to do than to deny the people's decision. It's abnormal if they don't do it."

He said the Barisan never resorted to such tactics although it lost all seats contested in Kelantan.