

# Dr M: PBS must mend its ways first

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Barisan Nasional will not be able to work with the PBS "if it continues to be anti-federal and anti-Peninsular Malaysia," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Barisan chairman said the PBS leadership had to change its attitude if it wanted co-operation with the coalition.

"I am not surprised why Barisan leaders are reacting this way (cautiously) to the PBS. It is because of their experiences," he told newsmen after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting.

Dr Mahathir said it was up to the PBS to prove its sincerity and that "something has to be done" to prove its good intention.

He said the Barisan supreme council would discuss the pro-

posed PBS-Umno coalition after gathering enough information.

Many Umno leaders, like their counterparts in other Barisan parties, are wary about the move.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said the proposal had to be weighed carefully.

Another vice-president, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, feared that the proposal could be an attempt to "checkmate" Umno's entry into Sabah.

Later, at a party briefing, Dr Mahathir was said to have told about 900 division leaders that it was still too early to know if the PBS proposal was sincere.

Several division leaders said the party president indicated that any move must not only benefit Umno but also the Barisan as a whole.