

Palestine people should not be victims, says Dr M

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SERDANG, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today ~~the people of Palestine~~ should not be made victims of the Gulf War.

It would be most unfortunate if the people of Palestine were made to suffer the consequences of the war, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on reports that Saudi Arabia would only give financial aid to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if Mr Yasser Arafat was not at its helm.

"As far as we are concerned we have nothing to decide on the matter," the Prime Minister told newsmen after visiting the Malaysian Agricultural Research Development Institute (Mardi) head office here.

"What we wish to see is that the people of Palestine should not be made the victims of any mistakes made by others," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked to comment on the depletion of Sabah's timber resources, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government is concerned but will not do anything beyond its powers to protect the State's interest.

He denied that there was any punishment on Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) by the Government's move to reduce the export of round logs and sawn timber from the State.