

# Mustapha urged to contest Usukan state seat

JITRA, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that he had advised Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun to contest the Usukan state seat in Sabah.

The Sabah State Legislative Assembly had on Wednesday declared the seat vacant after it received a letter from Tun Mustapha stating that he had resigned from Usno.

Tun Mustapha, the former Usno president, announced his resignation last month to join Umno. He said today that he would contest the seat.

According to the Sabah Constitution, a state assemblyman must vacate the seat he represented if he quit the party on whose ticket he contested.

Although certain quarters had said that Tun Datu Mustapha could challenge the case in court, others pointed out that he should contest the seat as his support was strong in the constituency.

Dr Mahathir, who was breaking fast at the Teluk Malik mosque near here, also urged Muslims to pursue knowledge in all fields which could contribute to their development and strength.

He said that to achieve this they must maintain peace and stability.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Malaysia should not repeat the mistake of certain Islamic countries which had been depending on the purchase of weapons from other countries for their survival.

He stressed that these countries had encountered serious problems such as lack of spare parts and technicians to maintain their weapons.

Dr Mahathir said that if Muslims continued to be weak they would be overcome by anti-Islamic forces.

He stressed that Muslims could assist other Muslims to develop if they themselves were strong.