

Mahathir: Wait for inquiry report on fire

By Wong Chun Wai

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Malaysians to wait for the Royal Commission of Inquiry report to determine the cause of the Sungai Buloh fire tragedy.

The Prime Minister said today it was best to wait for the commission to complete its investigations.

Dr Mahathir, who returned from a two-week holiday overseas, told reporters at Subang airport that he had been kept informed of the incident.

On the recent Usukan by-election, he said the victory of Sabah Umno chief Tun Datu Haji Mustapha Datu Harun proved that Umno was accepted in the state.

He said the Barisan Nasional had been confident of winning the by-election, although it felt that there was a possibility of a

reduced majority.

Dr Mahathir said the PBS had resorted to a hate campaign against the Federal Government, Umno and Peninsular Malaysia.

"Thank God, despite the widespread smear campaign against the Federal Government, the people of Sabah supported the Barisan," he added.

Umno won its first seat in Sabah when Tun Mustapha defeated Encik Jap Omar of the PBS by 2,492 votes in the by-election on Saturday.

Tun Mustapha obtained 5,672 votes against Encik Jap Omar's 3,180. There were 76 spoilt votes.

On the proposal by the MCA to set up a Chinese cultural city, Dr Mahathir said he had not studied the matter.

He said any move that could affect the unity of the country's multi-racial society should be studied carefully.