

PM: Pas abusing its power

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas was already abusing its power as shown by the party's ban against three newspapers from covering its general assembly.

The Prime Minister said the party was doing it even though it was not in power.

"If it forms the Federal Government, it will probably close down all the newspapers and all of you will be out of jobs," Dr Mahathir told reporters who burst out laughing.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the ban imposed on the *New Straits Times*, *Berita Harian* and *Utusan Malaysia*. Earlier,

Dr Mahathir opened the Merdeka Studio Complex of the National Film Development Corporation.

Pas was abusing its power even at its own general assembly, he said.

Dr Mahathir added that everytime the Federal Government provided development aid to rural areas, including Pas-controlled areas, Pas leaders would tell the people that the party had managed to force the Federal Government to provide the assistance.

"They have been telling the people to continue to vote for Pas since the people can benefit from the development aid and infrastruc-

tural development provided by the Barisan Nasional Government.

"They have turned development into a political issue.

"In Kelantan, they have removed the *penghulu* and replaced them with those who subscribe to Pas ideology, and they expect the Government to trust these new people to implement Government programmes including distributing fertilisers."

How could the Government hand over such responsibility to people who were chosen to spread and strengthen Pas ideology? he asked.