

PM briefs Cabinet on letter from Hawke

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today briefed the Cabinet on the letter he received from Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke admitting that an Australian TV series had caused damage to Malaysia. Mr Hawke's special envoy, Mr Gareth Evans, who met Dr Mahathir yesterday, had personally handed over the letter.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, who told reporters this, said the Government however, would not rush into making any decision on the matter.

"We would like to wait and see how the relationship develops after this," he said adding that the Government also welcomed Australia's effort to mend the rift.

He was speaking to reporters in Parliament House.

Encik Ghafar also said the Umno Supreme Council which meets this Saturday will likely discuss preparations for by-elections for the Limbongan and Sungei Pinang state seats in Kelantan.

When commenting on the High Court decision today to lift an interim injunction restraining the Election Commission from holding the by-elections, Encik Ghafar said the Commission is an independent body and that it would abide by the High Court decision.

Asked whether the decision will see by-elections for the two state-seats, he replied: "It is back to the Kelantan State Government to make a decision."