

# PM: Checks on Kelantan needed

ALOR STAR, Tues. The Kelantan State Assembly needs an opposition to ensure that the people in the State are effectively served. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He added that the absence of an opposition in the Pas-Semangat 46 dominated State Assembly in Kelantan has deprived the people of an opportunity to check the State Government's administration.

None of the Pas or Semangat 46 Assemblymen in the State dares to oppose any Government motion for fear

of being expelled from the party, Dr Mahathir said, adding that this was the reason for the absence of an opposition in the State Assembly.

The Prime Minister said: "These Assemblymen fear that if they take any step which is contrary to the top leadership, they would be expelled from their party and run the risk of losing their Assemblyman status."

Any Government which does not have an opposition in the Assembly was bound to make mistakes, Dr Mahathir told reporters after attending the opening of the

Sultan Abdul Hamid College Speech and Prize Presentation Day by the Sultan of Kedah.

For this reason, the Barisan Nasional would field their candidates for the Limbongan and Bukit Pinang State seats by-election in Kelantan.

Since it would only involve two State seats, the BN could not wrest the State Government from the Pas-Semangat 46 tie-up, but it could at least win two seats which could serve as important opposition seats.

Dr Mahathir said the BN had agreed on the principle

for the selection of the candidates. The candidates, however, had not been chosen, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the results of the coming by-elections would reveal whether the Pas-Semangat 46 State Government had brought any positive changes to Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said the BN candidates for the by-elections stood a good chance of winning and he hoped that the people of the State would review their stand on Umno and the BN which they had voted against in last year's general elections.