

# SABAH

# STAYS: PM

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## Dr M: Decision to be with Malaysia cannot be changed

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Kota Kinabalu

**THE Sabah people's decision in 1963 to be in Malaysia is final and cannot be changed. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday**

The Prime Minister said Sabah had made its choice with Sarawak to be in Malaysia and any discussion determining Sabah's position in Malaysia was against the spirit of the Constitution.

"The people must not be carried away just because of certain individuals and raise the question of Sabah

pulling out or how the position of Sabah can be strengthened in Malaysia," he told thousands of people at a gathering before unveiling a plaque to mark Umno's first election victory in Sabah in the Usukan by-election.

Dr Mahathir, who received the *Wira Nusa Raya* award from Sabah Umno deputy chief Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, which was presented on behalf of the people of Sabah, said that whoever went against the Constitution would be dealt with under the law.

The Umno president said the law applied equally to everyone, regardless

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## PM warns against referendum

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of whether they were in the opposition or the Government.

Dr Mahathir said any action for a referendum would create disunity and chaos in Malaysia like what was happening in other countries such as Yugoslavia where friends were fighting each other.

The Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Sabah, said some people in the state were harping on certain issues for their own parties' benefit.

Replying to questions by reporters regarding the call for a referendum, Dr Mahathir said Malay-

sia was formed following a referendum after Sabah and Sarawak gained independence in 1963.

On whether such a call threatened national security, he said that at the moment, the security was not affected and everything was under control.

"We must consider this action as dangerous. If we allow it to grow, it can get out of control *kecil jadi kawan besar jadi lawan*. Friends will be fighting each other and there will be chaos like what is happening in some other countries now," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would ex-

pose to the people the dangers of undertaking any action related to such a referendum.

He said the Government would not abuse its powers but would use the Internal Security Act if necessary against those threatening national security.

On the PBS' intention to rejoin Barisan Nasional, he said the party just "cannot get in, get out and get in again."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan comprised political parties which sank or swam together.

"If the Barisan loses, they should be with us and if Barisan wins, they

should also be with us.

"We should not be like some people who stay in Malaysia and become rich, and when a small problem arises, they run to Australia. This is not the spirit of Malaysia. We live in this country and we take what is in this country, good or bad," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who ended his visit to Sabah yesterday, which included attending a dinner jointly hosted by the Sabah Bumiputra Chamber of Commerce and the Sabal United Chinese Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday night, left for Miri in the afternoon.