

PM: Only PSD can settle disputes over posts

By Jahangir Sadiq

LANGKAWI, Thurs. — Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said today all appointments of Government officers were determined by the Public Services Department and there was no reason to set aside this procedure.

Commenting on the controversy surrounding the replacement of Mara director-general Haji Mohamad Ridzuan Haji Halim, he said appointments made by the PSD could not be disputed.

"If there are disputes, only the PSD is authorised to resolve the matter, without any political interference. This must be understood so that it is not dragged on or repeated," he told Radio Malaysia after attending a briefing on preparations for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '91).

In Kuala Lumpur, Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor admitted that he had instructed the Ministry's deputy secretary-general, Dr Mohamed Noor Ha-

**NO ABUSE, SAYS
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run, to "temporarily" replace Haji Mohamed Ridzuan while the latter was engaged in the setting up of the proposed Mara Development Centre.

In a six-paragraph statement, Datuk Dr Yusof said it was initially decided that a senior Mara officer perform Haji Ridzuan's responsibility as director-general.

But after re-examining the decision, Datuk Dr Yusof said he felt that it was better for Dr Mohamed Noor, who is the Ministry's representative in the Mara council, to perform the role.

Yesterday, Datuk Dr Yusof's Press secretary, Haji Shuhaimi Haji Che Hussain, said that Haji Ridzuan was never relieved of his duties as Mara director-general — a statement immediately disputed by informed sources.

It surfaced today that Datuk Dr Yusof had written a letter to Haji Ridzuan informing him of the decision and of the appointment of Dr Mohamed Noor to act on his behalf as Mara director-general.

The matter became complicated when Mara chairman Tamrin Abdul Ghafar announced on Saturday the appointment of Dr Mohamed Noor as Mara director-general and said nothing of the temporary nature of the appointment as now claimed by Datuk Dr Yusof.

Datuk Dr Yusof maintained that it was with this motive that the Mara council made the decision as announced by the chairman.

He added that it was within the council's capacity to make the announcement.

He said the proposed centre was in line with the implementation of Vision 2020 whereby agencies under his Ministry had been directed to immediately combine and maximise their efforts through plans and actions.

Datuk Dr Yusof also said he agreed that Haji Ridzuan implement the plan.