

Mahathir: No written assurance for Kelantan

S 25 APR 1992

PETALING JAYA: The Federal Government will not give a written agreement for the Kelantan Government to go ahead with the implementation of *hudud* laws.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there was no such need because the Federal Government was prepared to adopt measures to enable the PAS-ruled state to carry out its intention.

He said Kuala Lumpur was willing to remove any laws barring the state government from implementing the Islamic criminal law.

Dr Mahathir said he was not prepared to accept the assurance by PAS that there would be no chaos if these laws were carried out.

"We know there are countries which carried out these *hudud* laws but women who

walk alone disappear. What happens is nobody makes any (police) report," he said.

He was speaking at Subang airport on his return from a five-day official visit to Vietnam.

Kelantan Mentri Besar Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat had asked the Federal Government for a written agreement to implement the *hudud* laws.

Dr Mahathir said Kuala Lum-

pur would not withdraw the existing courts under any circumstances.

He told Kelantan to go ahead with its plan if it dared.

He challenged the state government to impose the *hudud* laws if it had its followers to arrest and chop off people's hands.

"They seemed to be eager to chop hands as if that if you don't, it is not Islamic," he said.