

# Kelantan must give written

# KL wants legal

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Kelantan Government must provide a legally-binding written guarantee that it would not tamper or obstruct further implementation of the Per-gau hydro-electric dam project.

He said the guarantee must be in black and white and could either be included in the draft agreement of the project or be a separate document.

He said it was important for the government to have a legally-binding assurance that Kelantan would not resort to similar actions in future since a lot of damage had already been done.

Dr Mahathir said: "The delay (as a result of the Kelantan Government putting up barricades at roads leading to the project areas) has resulted in substantial losses and we cannot afford more losses because of delays."

Dr Mahathir said this when asked by reporters after visiting the Calok sheep farm, about 70km from here, whether the written assurance was necessary since the Kelantan Government had said that it was contained in the agreement.

He said the agreement did not give such an assurance. Furthermore, he said the agreement was necessary as the Federal Government could not risk similar actions causing more damage and losses.

Asked if the one-month deadline for the Kelantan Government to produce the written guarantee would be extended, he said: "What's so difficult about giving the guarantee if it is really sincere in wanting the project to be continued?"

"It can be done in one

day," he said.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, earlier performed Friday prayers in Kuala Besut after a night's stay in Pulau Perhentian.

He said the Government was tired of the Kelantan Government's attitude as this was the second time it had encountered problems in the construction of the dam.

"We give them the deadline because we want to proceed with the project as soon as possible," he said.

Commenting on the Kelantan Government's actions to stop the project by putting up barricades, he said it was a hasty decision which did not take into consideration the consequences.

"In the end no one gains anything," he said.

The barricades were removed two days ago following negotiations between the Kelantan Government and Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

Asked who should be held responsible for the delay, Dr Mahathir said he was not concerned about putting the blame on anybody but was more concerned about wanting the project to be resumed.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who were here on a four-day visit, returned to Kuala Lumpur late today.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said in Pasir Puteh that the State Government was ready to submit a written pledge to the Federal Government that it would not obstruct the construction of the project if there was an official request.

"So far, I have only read

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 2, COL 6

undertaking, says PM  
guarantee

Nik Aziz

18 JUL 1992

## tells why barricades were set up

□ FROM PAGE

about the request from the newspapers. There has been no official request from the Federal Government yet," Nik Aziz told reporters after opening the Taman Sri Permata *madrrasah*.

He was responding to newspaper reports yesterday quoting Dr Mahathir as saying that the Federal Government might not allow work at the site to resume unless the Kelantan guaranteed that its implementation would not be obstructed further.

Newspaper reports today quoted Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman as saying that Kelantan was ready to make a pledge.

However, he said there was no need for any written commitment as this was already contained in the agreement which, once signed, would commit the State Government.

Since July 4, the Kelantan Government had ordered the State Land and Mines Department to barricade the Batu 10 road, followed by the Sungai Renyok, Batu 16, Batu 14 and the Sungai Long roads.

The barricades were only lifted on Wednesday after a meeting between Nik Aziz and Tenaga Nasional Berhad chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope on Tuesday.

Earlier, Nik Aziz said the Kelantan Government set up the barricades because Tenaga Nasional had failed to pay compensation for the land it had acquired for the project.

"Tenaga Nasional had promised on several occasions to settle the compensation issue but never did, leading to the Kelantan Government taking such steps."