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# Dr M: Ban was due to over-logging in Sabah

**KUALA LUMPUR** The Government decided to ban the export of logs from Sabah because of excessive logging by the state, Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said yesterday.

He said the move was necessary as there was not much timber left in Sabah.

Dr Mahathir dismissed allegations by the ruling **Parti Bersatu Sabah** that the Federal Government's decision was politically-motivated.

The Government, he said, had no ob-

jection to the processing of wood within the state.

Asked why the ban was not extended to Sarawak, Dr Mahathir said there was no timber there.

In any case, the Sarawak Government had already decided to reduce logging in the state.

Sabah Chief Minister **Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan** has urged the Primary Industries Ministry to lift the ban.

Sabah sawmillers claimed that the decision would leave the state poorer by **RM600** million next year.

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