

CNS6363

U GE 12-03 00200 EA006

aae

Mahathir-Sultan

SULTAN KELANTAN ISSUE: PM SAYS LET THE RELEVANT QUARTERS DECIDE

bm

ALOR SETAR, March 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it is up to the relevant quarters to decide whether there is a need to look into the position of the Sultan of Kelantan.

The Prime Minister said he did not know whether there was any basis to the statement of Government Backbenchers Club chairman Shahidan Kassim regarding the Sultan's position.

"It is up to the relevant quarters to decide whether to study what Shahidan said and whether it has any basis," he told reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Kepala Batas, near here.

When debating the revised Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday, Shahidan disputed the appointment of the previous Sultan of Kelantan, Tengku Yahya Petra, the present Sultan's father, because his mother was a commoner.

Commenting on the Malaysian Medical Association's (MMA) proposal to increase doctors' consultation fees by up to 190 per cent, Dr Mahathir said the fees were normally set by individual doctors and not the MMA. -- more

▼12/03/19-01MST

CNS6372

U GE 12-03 00157 EA007

aae

Mahathir-Sultan 2 (last) Alor Setar

He was confident that doctors would not impose exorbitant fees and he hoped that the MMA would clarify the need for such a sharp increase.

Asked if the MMA proposal was appropriate, he said if possible the government wanted the cost of all services and goods to remain low.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali are here to attend a breaking of fast gathering at Masjid Abidin, Sungai Laka, Changloo.

In Titi Gajah here, Dr Hasmah, who is chairman of the Welfare Body of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti), presented Hari Raya clothes and food to the poor from the Kubang Pasu District and Perlis.

The aid was handed over to the Perlis Menteri Besar's wife, Puan Ilham Hamid, and Kubang Pasu Wanita Umno chief Barishah Saad. -- Bernama