

PM: WE WILL ACT

Defiant federal officers in Kelantan will be disciplined, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned federal officers yesterday that action will be taken against them if they defy Federal Government orders.

The Prime Minister said these officers should be aware that they were working for the Federal Government and must, therefore, follow its instructions and orders.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a report which quoted Youth and

Sports Minister Datuk Annuar Musa as saying that the PAS-led Kelantan Government had directed state and federal officers not to cooperate with federal ministers.

Annuar said he had received reports that the state authorities had asked state and federal officers not to provide any facility for any function attended by federal ministers.

Annuar, who was speaking to newsmen at his Hari Raya open house at Bukit Marak, near Kota Baru, on Thursday, said that the Kelantan Government's alleged move would be brought up at the

Cabinet meeting.

Dr Mahathir said he wanted confirmation on the Kelantan Government's alleged directive for state and federal officers to cut ties with the Federal Government.

He told newsmen during his Hari Raya open house for diplomats and dignitaries that if the allegations were true, some people must be playing politics which was unwise to do.

Dr Mahathir said a lot of work in Kelantan depended on the Federal Government.

"If the state government cuts its relations with us, many of, the

state's development plans may not materialise," he said.

(In Kota Baru, Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Haji Mohamad Rozali Isohak confirmed that state officers were prohibited from meeting federal ministers.

(Bernama quoted him as saying during his Hari Raya open house that the meeting was discussed at a meeting of the State Executive Council two weeks ago and clarified that it only involved state officers.

(However, Bernama said Acting Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman declined comment

when asked on the matter at the state government's open house yesterday.)

On the upcoming Umno general assembly and elections, Dr Mahathir said party members were free to contest but they must do so courteously.

"They must not employ methods used in the 1987 party elections which saw the break-up of Umno and the people," he said.

Hundreds of diplomats, ministers, former ministers and special guests attended the Prime Minister's open house on the second day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri.