

Dr Mahathir: Lee's right to decide whether to contest

1993
MAY 21

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai has the right to decide whether or not to contest in the next general election.

"It is his right to make the decision just like other people. We in the Barisan Nasional give priority to the

interest of the nation. Any action is made so that stability will not be disrupted. Public good is more important than personal good," he said in reply to questions at a Press conference after opening the two-day National Health-Care Conference at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel.

The Prime Minister was

asked to comment on a statement Lee made, confirming that he would not contest in the next general election. Lee, who is also the MCA deputy president, was present at today's Press conference.

To another question on a request by a top US official in charge of Asian affairs for formal trade links between

the North America Free Trade Association (NAFTA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA), Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia would have to wait for details before making any decision on it.

"We have to examine, to know what the linkage actually is. If it benefits us, okay,

if we will lose, it will certainly be rejected. We want to know details ... we are open," he said.

He was asked on the request reportedly made by Winston Lord, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs during the weekend at the annual Asean talks with the United States in Brunei.