

Dr M happy with work on Pedu dam resort

ALOR STAR, FRIDAY — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed satisfaction with the progress of the work on the RM45 million holiday facilities at the Pedu dam.

He said 100 rooms of the proposed 200-room resort and nine holes of the 18-hole golf course would be ready by December.

"The developer is now clearing the tree stumps from the lake," he said, adding that the 9½-kilometre access road would also be ready soon.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the Sul-

tan Abdul Halim airport here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur. He was on a day-long visit to the State.

Asked to comment on the Johor Military Force (JMF), Dr Mahathir said absorbing its members into the armed forces was among the proposals considered by the Cabinet.

The other option is for the personnel to retire or be asked to quit.

"We make the proposals. However, it depends on the Johor State Government," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked to comment on a plan by a group in Umno to

hold a gathering at the PWTC in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow, Dr Mahathir said: "I have no comment."

To another question, he said he did not want to say whether it was proper or improper for the group to hold the gathering.

"I do not want to comment on activities relating to the (party) elections because I am neutral," said Dr Mahathir.

Asked whether the gathering would split the party members into camps, he also declined to comment.

Asked for his advice to those who wanted to pro-

ceed with the gathering, he said: "As long as they don't split."

On the possibility that a leader's name may be used for campaigning purposes, he said Umno members could assess for themselves.

Asked to elaborate on his speech at a gathering at the Dewan Jitra this morning in which he said, apparently in a lighter vein, that Pas and Semangat 46 should get ready for the general election in two or three months' time, Dr Mahathir said: "I think Pas and Semangat 46 should get ready...(actually) they are afraid."