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# PM: No increase in royalty for Kedah

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will not increase the annual RM10,000 royalty paid to the Kedah Government for Seberang Prai, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the Government was no longer bound by the agreement made by the

British Government to pay the royalty.

"We can stop the payment if we want to be cause we are no longer bound by the agreement but we will still pay what is given traditionally," he told reporters after visiting Sekolah Menengah Datuk Lokman in Kampung Pandan here.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had given other allocations as compensation when Seberang Prai was ceded to the British in the 1770s.

Therefore, there was no necessity for Kedah to ask for more.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman

Aroff's suggestion that the royalty be increased to RM10 million.

Osman said the amount would reflect the actual value of the RM10,000 paid then.

However, Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad said on Monday the royalty payment should be abolished.

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