

Dr M: Integration of civil servants vital for country

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KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today integration among government employees, irrespective of where they were placed, was important for the smooth running of the country's administration.

The Prime Minister said while locals would be best serving in their own States, the Government would like to see more officers from Sabah and Sarawak hold senior posts in the peninsula and vice-versa.

Addressing senior officers of federal departments and agencies here, he said: "We do not like to see Sabah administered by federal officers from the State only."

He said the Government

encouraged officers from Sabah and Sarawak to work elsewhere, not only in Kuala Lumpur but also in other parts of the country and it would encourage integration among the people in both States and those in the peninsula.

Dr Mahathir said integration among civil servants could only be said to have been achieved when parochialism no longer prevailed among them.

He said in politics, these had already been achieved where Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud from Sarawak and Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai were respectively given Cabinet positions where their work was more associ-

ated with Peninsular Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir also urged civil servants to improve their work quality and administration.

He said there were cases of some officers who complained of the many circulars they got from Chief Secretary Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid which he said was unavoidable.

"We have to set a new era ... new ways of doing things in order to be able to cope with present trend and ways of doing things," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted everybody, both private and public sectors, to get into the mood and really dedicate themselves to serving the nation.