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Mahathir-Supervision  
NO INTENTION TO MEDDLE IN SABAH ADMINISTRATION, SAYS PM

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KOTA KINABALU, April 3 (Bernama) -- The federal government has no intention to meddle in the administrative affairs of the new state government formed a week ago.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the federal government had no cause to interfere.

"In fact, we will assist the state government because we now have close ties with them," he told a news conference at the end of his two-day official visit to Sabah.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Bantoi and his two deputies, Datuk Mohamad Salleh Tun Said and Datuk Yong Teck Lee, were present at the news conference.

Dr Mahathir said the federal government only wanted to ensure the abuses of power which occurred during the rule of the three previous state governments would not be repeated. -- more

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"It does not mean we have no confidence in the present state government," he added.

Addressing a meet-the-people session here yesterday, Dr Mahathir said federal supervision was to ensure the abuses of power common in the past were not repeated.

He said the supervision was not aimed at putting pressure on the state government.

"They (state government leaders) will only feel being pressured if they have ill intentions...if otherwise, there is no need to feel pressured," he said.

He also said the federal government's proposal to send audit teams to inspect the financial standings of state agencies which were not in order was for their own good. -- more

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Appropriate actions, which might include legal action, would be taken based on the audit reports, he said.

Mohamad Salleh had said 11 state agencies did not submit their financial statements for the past several years. They included the Sabah Foundation.

Dr Mahathir said the federal Cabinet had not decided on a successor to Sakaran who resigned as Land and Cooperative Minister to head the Sabah government.

"It is not that we don't want Sabah people in the federal Cabinet as we do have a vacancy for them but we have not made a decision yet," he added.

The post of Sabah Affairs Minister is also vacant after Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun quit in the middle of last year. -- Bernama

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