

# IT'S INCOMPETENCE

## No excuse for breakdown of airport radar, says Dr M

By PAUL GABRIEL

**ALOR STAR:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the incompetence of airport officials led to the radar breakdown at Subang airport.

The Prime Minister said it seemed to him that the officials had not learnt from the two previous fires at the airport.

He said the cause of the breakdown might be due to sabotage or technical failure but there was still no excuse for the officials.

"They should have known by now what to do to prevent a short-circuit as this is already the third fire at Subang.

"I cannot accept sabotage, too, as it should not have been allowed in the first place.

"It seems to me that they (Subang airport officials) are continuing to remain incompetent and not taking their jobs seriously," he told newsmen at the residence of the Kubang Pasu district office after opening the RM895,000 Jitra library in his Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, stressed that the purchase of so-

phisticated and new equipment for the airport would not be a solution if the officials remained inefficient and did not stay alert.

He said preventive measures were cheaper than remedial action and short-circuits would not occur if proper and regular maintenance was carried out.

He described it as an irony that while passengers insured themselves against disasters, the airport itself was being exposed to frequent fires.

Asked whether "heads would roll," he said it was more a question of "lackadaisical culture" than personalities.

The Prime Minister also criticised the airport officials for not informing him of the breakdown, adding

that he only knew of it from the newspapers.

He said he did not know if there was any attempt to "cover up" the fire.

The Prime Minister later visited the Bukit Kayu Hitam border complex to check on a security screening facility which is said to have been out of order for over a year.

A police official at the scene told *The Star* that the belongings of people crossing in from Thailand had to be manually checked.

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