

IMF rule odd but we aren't quitting

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Malaysia is not quitting as a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) though the country is unhappy over moves by the organisation to restrict credit payment arrangements, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said it was odd that developed countries could extend credit payment arrangements while developing countries like Malaysia would not be allowed to do so.

Dr Mahathir, who was

speaking to reporters after opening the Malaysian International Cocoa Fair today, was asked to comment on moves by the IMF to impose a rule that "the period between settlement of balances under official arrangements should not exceed three months."

The proposal, if adopted, will affect countries which need to export their products, such as palm oil in Malaysia's case. Asked if Malaysia was threatening to quit the IMF since the Government was not happy, Dr

Mahathir said it was not.

"We are not threatening. We just want to find out why the organisation said it was wrong for us to give credit (to importing countries)," he added.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik was reported today as having said that the IMF move has left Malaysia with two options, one of which is to leave the organisation.

The other option, he added, was to review the country's palm oil credit and payment arrangement.