

KL to look into claim

JITRA, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Federal Government will check on claims by the Kelantan Government that it had only received 10 per cent of this year's Federal grants.

He said as far as the Government was concerned, it had approved what was due for Kelantan.

"If the money did not reach (the Kelantan Government), than that's a different matter," the Prime Minister said, adding that the Federal Government would check Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's claim that the Pas-led State Government had received only RM13 million or 10 per cent of this year's Federal grants.

Nik Aziz had contended that the amount was official as he had obtained information from the State Financial Officer during an Exco meetings.

However, Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Rozali Isahak contradicted Nik Aziz at a Parti Melayu Semangat 46 gathering at Tanjung Bendahara in Alor Star last night.

Rozali said the Federal Government had so far given RM3 million to the Kelantan Government from the total allocation of RM120 million.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on this by reporters after attending the "Pemimpin Bersama Rakyat" gathering at Sekolah Menengah Hosba, near here.

He said that if the Kelantan Menteri Besar's claim was true, then the Kelantan Government could not even afford to pay salaries of its officers.

"Yet, it could do so and also spent beyond its allocations and for various other activities."

"They could do all these... where did they get the money?" asked Dr Mahathir.

Nevertheless, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government would check on the matter and that it would pay the Kelantan Government the outstanding amount.

"But I can't see how this could be true," he added.

Asked to comment on Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah comments at a ceramah here last night that he preferred to speak to the foreign media, Dr Mahathir said:

"He can accept the foreign media which is anti-Government and anti-Malaysia but not the local media.

"He has lost his sense of direction and does not know what else to do."