

31 MAR 1996

OSMAN SAYS KEDAH MB ISSUE IS OVER

ALOR SETAR, March 31 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Osman Aroff said today the issue concerning his position as the Menteri Besar of Kedah is over and need not be discussed any more.

"The issue is already closed and they (22 state assemblymen) have already apologised to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for not going through the proper channel...end of the story," he said when met by reporters here.

Asked if he received a letter from Dr Mahathir, he replied no.

The 22 Umno state assemblymen from Kedah had signed a memorandum calling for Osman to be retained as the Menteri Besar and opposing any move to replace him with former Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid.

Yesterday, 20 of them apologised to Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, for announcing the contents of the memorandum through the press before submitting it to him.

He told reporters later that the assemblymen had given him the mandate to make any decision on the position of the Kedah Menteri Besar.

The Prime Minister also met with Kedah members of parliament after meeting the state assemblymen to discuss the same issue. --BERNAMA

MZM SK