

13 MAY 1996

Osman-Mahathir

OSMAN WAITING FOR SUITABLE TIME TO MEET DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Osman Aroff, who has tendered his letter of resignation as the Kedah Menteri Besar, said today that he is waiting for a suitable time to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I am leaving it to the Prime Minister...when the time is right, I will meet him. That is all," he told reporters after chairing the Kedah State Development Corporation meeting here.

It was understood that Osman had planned to meet Dr Mahathir over the weekend when he was in Kuala Lumpur to attend Umno's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Prime Minister is in Japan and will later proceed to the United States. He is expected to return on May 24.

Osman was initially reluctant to comment on his plan to meet Dr Mahathir.

When asked to reveal whether or not the meeting has taken place, he said: "I met him at Masjid Negara.

"Why are you pressing me on this point. The matter is between me and the Prime Minister.

"I am not making any more statement on this matter...please."

Dr Mahathir led Umno members in a tahlil at Masjid Negara in conjunction with the celebrations. Osman attended the function.

Asked whether the Prime Minister has indicated anything to him about the matter, Osman pleaded to the reporters to wait until after Dr Mahathir has made a decision.

On whether he has any advice to Umno members who may be anxious to know the Prime Minister's decision, he said that they should remain calm while waiting for the decision.

"Be calm...wait for the decision," he said. -- BERNAMA

MFJ RM