

The final decision is still mine, says Dr M

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he will still make the final decision on issues that have been looked at by his advisers.

He said the advisers were appointed because he needs their advice to understand issues clearly within a short period of time.

"If I do not study them, I might not make a good decision. So, I need advisers to advise me on what to do.

"But I will still make my own decision, not that of the advisers' ... whether or not I accept their advice is my responsibility," he told reporters after officiating at the National Education Convention 2001 in Genting Highlands yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was asked on the tasks assumed by former Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman as his second adviser, which took effect on April 16.

In May last year, Dr Mahathir named an ex-central banker Nor Mohamed Yakcop as his adviser on finance-related matters.

Dr Mahathir also said he has to meet numerous parties who have problems, some of which he does not have time to either solve them or understand what their problems are.

"That is why I leave them to my two advisers and they will try to solve some of these problems," he said.

For instance, he said if banks do not provide loans, "I can't (be expected to) go to the banks and urge them to give the loans."

The Prime Minister said the tasks of his advisers are wide-ranging which include the monitoring of privatization of projects.

"They will study them first and advise me so that I would understand the problems better," he added. — *By Hamisah Hamid*
