

# Tin mines in Perak can re-open, says MB

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**IPOH, Wed:** Tin mines in Perak that closed when tin prices fell can now re-open.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri DiRaja Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali said this was decided at a recent national land council meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It is a Federal Government directive to only accept tin mines which were approved earlier and closed during the drop in tin price," he said after attending the two-day Ulama's conference at the Town Hall here today.

Tajol Rosli said the state land and mines director will be asked to supervise the mines so as not to endanger residents living nearby.

On another matter, he said with the state Umno division elections over, it is time to close ranks and accept mem-

bers to sit on divisional committees.

Tajol Rosli said to include them in the committees, whatever differences among the rival camps can be overcome.

"Winning the general elections is far more important than that of the divisional elections. To win elections there must be unity among us to face the opposition."

On another matter, he said the prime minister after attending the Rulers' Conference with mentris besar and chief ministers had directed state governments and its agencies not to hold back payment to contractors for work carried out.

He said on the average government departments take three months to make payment.

"Usually after the local order had been issued, payment should be made as early as possible to reduce costs."

He said in this way, the financial burden on contractors will be lessened.