

# PM: Anti-hopping rule may be hard to enforce

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**KOTA KINABALU:** A rule on anti-hopping may be difficult to enforce, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said that he was not sure if the Government could formulate a law on anti-hopping.

"But, we hope that there will be no hopping among Barisan parties," he

told reporters yesterday when asked if a law or a rule could be formulated to stop elected representatives from switching parties within the coalition.

Dr Mahathir said after opening the 18th Parti Bersatu Sabah congress here yesterday that if those from the opposition parties hopped into Barisan "we will of course welcome them."

Asked about the matter, Barisan secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said he was in the process of setting rules within a framework of party discipline.

"We don't have any clear rules to control inter-party hopping. Such moves can undermine the Government. We need to be firm in tackling

the problem," he said.

He noted that the problem existed in Sabah and Penang as some political leaders hopped to other parties for self-interest.

Mohamed said that the regulations for the anti-hopping rules would be ready soon for the Barisan supreme council to discuss.