

PM: GOVT WILL NOT INTERFERE

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Rotation system customary but not binding, says Dr Mahathir

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THE government is leaving the appointment of the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong to the Conference of Rulers, says Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said although it was customary to appoint a Yang di-Pertuan Agong based on a rotation system, it was not a binding arrangement.

“This is a matter to be decided by the Conference of Rulers and we will not interfere. We will accept their decision. I am not sure if the successor will be determined by voting. It is up to the rulers.

“I hope the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be appointed as soon as possible because as prime minister, I have to seek an audience,” he said after opening the state Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia office here yesterday.

Asked why Sultan Muhammad V decided to step down as the king, Dr Mahathir said he was surprised to hear many stories.

“I heard so many stories but I am not at liberty to divulge anything, even if I know why he



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad signing a plaque to open the Terengganu Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia office in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. PIC BY GHAZALI KORI

resigned.”

He advised people to respect the decision made by the Con-

ference of Rulers.

“The people have no right to dictate who should resign and

who should succeed. We have to accept the rulers’ decision.”

Asked who he would prefer as

the new king, Dr Mahathir said: “I have no choice. That is a rhetorical question.”