

# Tun M hopes throne will be filled soon

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**KUALA TERENGGANU:** Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the government hopes that the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be elected as soon as possible.

Mahathir said the election had to be expedited because he had to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on certain matters.

"The government accepts the decision of (the Sultan of Kelantan) Sultan Muhammad V to step down.

"It is in accordance with the Constitution," he said after opening the Terengganu office of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia here yesterday.

Istana Negara, in a statement released on Sunday by Datuk Pengelola Bijaya Diraja (Comptroller of the Royal Household) Datuk Wan Ahmad Dahlan Ab Aziz, announced the resignation of Sultan Muhammad V who had reigned from Dec 13, 2016.

Mahathir said the Conference of Rulers had rules and procedures pertaining to the succession of the King, which were enshrined in the Constitution.

Asked about Sultan Muhammad V's successor, Mahathir said he would in no way interfere in the matter and the final decision lay with the Conference of Rulers.

"We (the government) will not interfere in this matter. The next Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be determined by the Conference of Rulers.

"I do not know how it is done and according to their (Malay Rulers) tradition, they have their own arrangements," he said.

Meanwhile, commenting on the



Mahathir shaking hands with a special needs child while visiting Taman Sinar Harapan in Kuala Terengganu yesterday, as Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh looks on. — **BERNAMAPIX**

performance of Cabinet ministers, Mahathir said overall he was satisfied with how they were doing.

Earlier, after a meeting with educators in Kuala Nerus, Mahathir reminded educators to continue playing their roles to realise the desire of the government in producing a generation fluent in English.

The prime minister said the role of teachers is important to shape

and determine future Malaysians and therefore the government is giving serious focus on education.

"Do not let it become a political issue and deny the people the opportunity to master knowledge due to the political interests of certain groups.

"We need to master English and I hope educators would give priority to master it as it is the language of science and technology.

"Education now will continue to change so that we receive more benefits from our country's education system," he said.

Also present were his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Raja Ahmad as well as 1,000 educators. — **Bernama**