

# Our revenue goes to paying national debt'

**KOTA KINABALU:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says most of the country's revenue is spent towards paying the national debt.

"We owe RM1 trillion and if we don't pay, we get bankrupt.

"Most of the revenue is going towards paying back these debts. Our revenue is to pay our nation's debts by Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"We are lacking funds (so) we have to spend wisely," the Prime Minister told reporters at the end of his one-day visit to Sabah yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was answering a question about Sabah and Sarawak needing more funds for development due to them, including from higher oil royalty.

He said Sabah was not the poorest state in the country like Perlis and Kedah.

"Sabah is one of the richest states in the whole country once the oil from deepwater oil wells starts yielding," he said.

On disappointment among Sabahans and Sarawakians that no specific goodies for the two states were in his Malaysia Day speech in Ku-



**Working visit:** Dr Mahathir signing the visitor logbook during a visit to the Sabah State Administrative Centre in Kota Kinabalu as Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal (Dr Mahathir's left) looks on. — Bernama

ching on Monday, he said: "The goodies come together with all other states. We want to ensure there is no disparity among the states. Sabah

and Sarawak are the richest states, we want to stress that both states have a lot of land and they must concentrate on agriculture."

He said the government was reviewing the agriculture policy where modern practices could be introduced to benefit both states.