THE STAR, Monday, March 22, 1982

APRIL IT IS



Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir: . . . "I hope elections will be held in April"





FLASHBACK . . . what we said on Feb. 10 and Saturday.

• Dewan dissolves on March 29
• Elections likely on April 24

By N.V. RAMAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir announced today that the Dewan Rakyat will be dissolved on March 29.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meeting at his residence here this afternoon, he said: "I hope and pray the elections will be held in April".

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president and the Barisan Nasional chairman said it was up to the Election Commission to fix the dates for the nomination of candidates and polling.

The Commission is expected to fix April 8 or 10 as nomination day and April 24 as polling day.

Its chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Talib said tonight that the commission would meet tomorrow to discuss the possible date for polling.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he had advised the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to dissolve the Dewan Rakyat on March 29 when he met the King on Wednesday.

The Dewan Negara sits from tomorrow to Friday. Senators are appointed for three-year terms and are not affected by the elections.

Earlier this morning, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir chaired an Umno Supreme Council meeting at the party's headquarters.

He said he briefed both meetings about the date for dissolution of Parliament.

The Prime Minister said he had also advised all the Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers, except the Chief Ministers of Sabah and Sarawak, to dissolve their respective State Assemblies on the same day.

Sabah and Sarawak will not be having elections to their State Assemblies this year. Sabah held its State election last year while Sarawak held it in 1980.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional today ap-

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Bahan asal dari Arkib Negara Malaysia

No. Siri 15, 307
No. Penerimaan 152/90

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PM: No decision yet on seat allocation:

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pointed its secretary-general Encik Ghafar Baba as the overall director-general of the election.

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Razaleigh Hamzah is heading the committee which is drawing up the coalition's manifesto.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said no final decision had been taken yet on the allocation of seats for the respective component parties.

"This will be done through separate discussions and not in a Supreme Council meeting," he said.

Adding that all component parties would use the Barisan symbol, he said that he did not forsee any problems within the Barisan.

Asked about the possibility of component parties backing "Independents" in some seats which they were not allocated, he said: "The Barisan is a collection of parties.

"The enforcement of our rules is by the respective parties themselves. The Barisan, as such, has no powers.

"But the leaders of the component parties have listened intently to my exhortations (about the need for co-operation and not sabotaging one and another) and I think they got my point".

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the Barisan's manifesto theme would be: "A Government that is Clean, Effective and Trustworthy."

On issues, he said the Barisan had no specific issues to face. "The Opposition has got a lot to face," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Barisan manifesto would be issued at "the proper time before the election."

Asked why he was announcing the date for dissolution of the Dewan now instead of waiting for the actual day, he quipped: "I decided to make the announcement early because ,you all (the press) keep pressing me for the date whenever you see me.

"Besides, it will give the Opposition time to prepare for their final days."

Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia