

PM: Don't expect hints of early polls

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Prime Minister said it was unfortunate that he was being closely watched for hints that he might call for an early general election.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said even his sudden visit to his Kubang Pasu constituency had given rise to speculation that the general election was just around the corner.

"But I am not going to make any comment. Let the watchers speculate, let them run after the speculated dates themselves.

"As far as I am concerned, there will be an election when there is an election. The only hint I can give is that a general election will definitely be held before April 1987," he said.

He added that as Prime Minister he had a lot of work and therefore he could not visit his constituency as often as before.

Letters

"As a Deputy Prime Minister, I could visit Kubang Pasu once a month. Now I can not afford the luxury.

"Many people think the job of a Prime Minister is easy. They even asked me to be in the office every day from morning till night. Some asked me to be in Parliament daily.

"There were also those who asked me to entertain the thousands of letters I received daily and to reply to them promptly.

"They have been asking me to do this and that as if I have nothing else to do. There is a lot of work to do and much which could not be done.

"If only I could say 'Ya' and everything is done. If that is possible, how easy my life could be," he said.

The Prime Minister also said there were many requests which he could not entertain.

"A lot of things must be considered before any request could be entertained. This exercise is time consuming. That is one of the reasons why I cannot visit my constituency often."