

PM: DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN POLLS WILL BE



Dr Mahathir ... 'we are not sure who Sabah Chief Minister is'

519 NOV 1985

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The date of the next general election is difficult to determine as the "turn of events in the political arena" has been negative, Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

"For instance, Sabah. We are not sure who is the Chief Minister as there is a wrangle going on."

"There is no such thing in other States, where we are very sure who the Chief Minister is."

"We are trying to find out, until then we cannot consider the situation (in Sabah) as positive," Dr Mahathir told reporters after a three-hour Umno Supreme Council meeting

at the Umno building here.

The Prime Minister also said the MCA crisis had affected the political situation.

However, he said, there had been no conclusion or decision made on the MCA crisis or the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) application to join the Barisan Nasional or fixing the date of the general election.

"The meeting was just another brain-storming session."

"The general election will be held at such a time when we feel it is suitable," he added.

Dr Mahathir reiterated Umno's stand of non-interference in the affairs of other Barisan component parties.

Referring to the MCA election this Sunday,

he said: "Whatever the outcome, it will be accepted."

On whether the MCA would have to leave the coalition, Dr Mahathir said only the Barisan Supreme Council could decide.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said that Umno's 40th anniversary next year would be celebrated on a grand scale in Johore.

He received a cheque for \$50,000 from Johore Umno as initial payment of the latter's pledge to contribute \$100,000 annually toward the cost of the party's new headquarters complex.

Dr Mahathir also announced the re-admission of Haji Abdul Rahman Wan Ibrahim as a member of the Lipis division.