

Mahathir shrugs off (P) 'reason for early polls'

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KOTA KINABALU, Tues.

— **Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad** said today he failed to understand the reasoning that the Government might lose the people's confidence if it did not call an early election.

"I cannot accept it," he said during a Press conference following a meeting of the Sabah Barisan Nasional.

He was asked to comment on reports that some people, including former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn, had called for "an end to the guessing game".

"How can withholding of the election date be associated with the fear of lack of confidence in the support of the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the general election could be held any time. He could even announce the dissolution of Parliament in the next few days.

He said postponing the sitting of the Dewan Rakyat by a week did not indicate anything. The sitting which was to start on July 14 was postponed to July 21.

This was necessary as several Bills were still being prepared.

"We don't foresee a need for that. But the State Government is free to do what it likes. We will not stand in its way and if we are required to make any amendments to the Constitution to enable Sabah to do so, we will certainly be prepared to make the amendment."