

# PM confident of comfortable win in polls

By ZAINON AHMAD

LABUAN, Fri. — The Barisan Nasional is confident of a comfortable win in the general election.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who expressed this confidence today, said: "I cannot very well tell you I am going to lose. However, one thing is definite, we cannot win all the seats."

The Prime Minister was speaking at a Press conference at the end of a

two-day visit to Labuan.

Labuan is his last stop in a series of State visits that began with Negri Sembilan in January.

Dr Mahathir's confidence of a Barisan victory at the polls is based on the study he made during his State visits. The Barisan component parties are ready for the election, he observed.

He said all issues faced by the Government and which could affect the performance of the Barisan "has been largely cleared".

However, the decision to hold the election was not his alone as he would have to consult other component party leaders.

Asked when he would meet them, he said: "When I am ready to hold the election. This may take time. However we are in no hurry."

On his meeting with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he had to see the King as he had not seen him for some time.

Furthermore, there were certain administrative matters he had to report to the King.

The Prime Minister refused to confirm or deny the possibility that he could have informed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong about the dissolution of Parliament.

"The Press is good at speculating, so be it. Continue to speculate as long you do not speculate on the stock market.

"If I say yes or no, you will end the speculation."

On whether polling would be held one or two days after the start of the fasting month with the campaign being held during the early part of May, he said: "Everything is possible."

He did not discount the possibility of having the election during the fasting month.

Asked how he would resolve the Sabah problem, he said: "We will wait and see."

Asked whether something further was being worked out considering that at stake for the Barisan Nasional in Sabah is 20 parliamentary seats, he said: "We did quite well when Kelantan was under Pas. The State did not give us many seats but we did quite well.

"We win some, we lose some."