

'PLAN TO STOP POLLS'

An opposition party plans to take an injunction, says PM

By M. VEERA PANDIYAN

MALACCA, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that if the general election is called for during the haj season, an opposition party planned to take an injunction to stop it.

In an obvious reference to PAS, he said: "They know they cannot stop the election as they have no legal grounds. They are planning it as a political gimmick just to show that they are the champions of religion."

At the same time, he said, the party had also asked its members not to go on the pilgrimage for

fear that the party's performance in the election would be affected. "They tell their supporters that the election is more important and that those who go on the haj during the election will not have their pilgrimage 'recognised.' They appear to have links with God," he said when opening the

know that they never practise what they preach about Islam," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said that the Barisan Nasional manifesto was ready and would be issued "as soon as we are ready to do so."

He said the seats would be distributed fairly among the compo-

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Batu Berendam Umno \$2.5 million building.

The haj season began last Tuesday and the last batch of pilgrims are scheduled to return on Sept 12.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition party's move was unlikely to delay the general election.

"This is just one of those things which the party will do to try and boost its image. But the people

ment parties but reiterated that none of the parties would be satisfied in their demands.

"If all are dissatisfied it must be fair. This is our logic and philosophy," he said.

When asked if tomorrow's Barisan Supreme Council meeting would set the date for the election, he said:

"We will decide everything tomorrow. A lot of things, elections

... anything you like, we will tell you. Why is everybody so anxious over the election?"

On Malacca, Dr Mahathir said he was confident the Barisan would make a clean sweep in the State.

He said if Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang was brave enough to contest here (Kota Melaka), he would get a sound thrashing.

"But I hear Mr Lim will run to Penang because he knows that he has not provided service and has already lost the State seat (Bandar Hilir)," he said.

He added that although there were people who said Mr Lim should win because he was the Opposition Leader, such a role was useless if it was only to talk in Parliament.

"When the Government replies to his arguments, he is not in the House," he said.