

Some Ministers and MBs may not contest, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad indicated today that some Ministers and Mentris Besar may not stand in the general election.

"Some Ministers may not want to contest ... some Mentris Besar also. Wait for the election (candidates) list," he told reporters after opening an international seminar on commodities here.

Dr Mahathir also said that some Mentris Besar would be contesting parliamentary seats, adding that the move was not unusual.

"We usually shift people around. Sometimes State Assemblymen contest parliamentary seats and later return to their State seats.

"This is normal and I don't see why anybody should be excited," he added.

The Star reported today that three Mentris Besar and a Chief Minister are likely to contest parliamentary seats while two other Mentris Besar might not seek re-election.

The four are believed to be Johore Mentri Besar Datuk Ajib Ahmad, Pahang Mentri Besar Datuk Najib Tun Razak, Terengganu Mentri Besar Datuk Seri

Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Malacca Chief Minister Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik.

Kelantan Mentri Besar Datuk Mohamed Jacob and Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Ali Haji Ahmad would not be seeking re-election.

On seat allocation, the Prime Minister said there was no particular formula used in dividing the seats among the component parties and that the only criteria used was "fairness."

"The allocations were based on fairness to all and the desire to work together in the spirit of the Barisan and Malaysian inter-racial harmony," he added.

On the PAS candidate who would be contesting against him in his Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency, Dr Mahathir said: "I am quite sure they (PAS) have somebody who wants to be their Prime Minister, since they have ambitions to rule the country.

"I would like to see their Prime Minister... who is going to contest against me. The man who contests against me must be of my stature which means he must be somebody whom PAS wants to be its Prime Minister in its so-called Islamic State," he added.