

Dr M: Polls rules to remain the same

AST 10 APR 1990

ALOR STAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government does not intend to amend the rules on elections in line with the proposal to amend the Bankruptcy Laws 1965.

Referring to the Pantai Merdeka by-election recently, he said the 90-minute period reserved for objections on candidates, for instance, was sufficient.

"Some people may still not be satisfied even if the time is extended," he told reporters at the Kepala Batas airport here.

He was here to break fast at the Tanjung Pauh mosque, near Jitra.

He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Dr Mahathir said the important thing was that those who wished to make the objections should give themselves ample time to prepare for it.

He said in the case of Senator Shuaib Lazim, the company to which he repaid the money he owed, did not inform the court of the payment in time.

Pas, which lost in the by-election, had said that Senator Shuaib was a bankrupt during nomination day for the by-election and had threatened to take the matter to court.

Dr Mahathir also said that those who were dissatisfied with the elected candidate could take the matter to court.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah later presented \$5,000 on behalf of Bakti to Kedah Perkim chairman Datuk Haji Shafie Abdullah for the construction

of a building and to provide clothes to the needy in five areas.

The Menteri Besar's wife, Datin Seri Hajah Azizah Abdul Hamid, and several others received the donation for the five areas which included Tunjang, Kulim and Bandar Baru.

In Teluk Intan, *Bernama* reports that Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said there would be enough policemen to maintain order during counting of votes at polling centres if the recently amended Election Act allowing for an such exercise was effected during the next general election.

Deployment

The new arrangement would mean an increase in the number of counting centres and deployment of additional security personnel.

Deployment of policemen to the centres would depend on the security situation of a particular constituency, he said after breaking fast at Kampung Redang Punggor, Chendrong Balai, near here, last night.

He was commenting on reinforcing security at polling-cum-counting centres during the coming general election should the new provisions of the Act be applied.

With the amendment, counting of votes for each parliamentary constituency will be handled at polling centres and no more at specially designated venues as in the past.

However, there is no official announcement yet on when the Act would be enforced.