

# PM: A long campaign will only create tension

By Zarinah Daud

PENANG, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government decided on a short campaign period for the eighth general election to avoid tension in the country.

From experience, the Prime Minister said the long campaign period in the 1969 general election led to chaos and racial riots.

"We do not want the inci-

dent to recur. We do not want a prolonged election campaign which will only create tension.

"The people will not concentrate on other things except the election.

"The sooner we settle this election, the better.

"After all, we have heard people campaigning for more than two years. In fact, the opposition parties have been campaigning since 1987 at various places," he said, adding

that he too had campaigned during tours to various parts of the country.

Dr Mahathir said the 10-day campaigning period was enough to fulfil the requirements under the law.

He was speaking after attending a two-hour closed-door meeting with representatives of the Balik Pulau Umno division this evening.

Also present were Education Minister Anwar

Ibrahim, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and State Umno liaison secretary Dr Ibrahim Saad.

On his meeting with the Balik Pulau Umno representatives, Dr Mahathir said it was an internal affair which had been resolved.

"It is a family matter and we do not discuss it. Umno

★ PLEASE TURN  
TO P2, COL 8

## PM to meet BN leaders

★ FROM PAGE ONE

is a disciplined party and we try to settle every problem."

On the allegation by Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that the opposition parties were not given enough coverage in the newspapers, the Prime Minister asked whether *Harakah* and the *Rocket* (the official organs of Pas and DAP respectively) could give fair coverage to the Government as well.

"Whenever you open the two newspapers (*Harakah* and *Rocket*), there was nothing reported except criticisms against the Government from front to back page," Dr Mahathir said.

He added the two parties were thus in no position to talk of other newspapers giving them fair coverage.

Dr Mahathir said it was just the attitude of the two parties who were against the newspapers, adding that they even went to the

extent of burning them (newspapers).

On the Barisan Nasional candidates' list, Dr Mahathir said he would be meeting with leaders of the component parties tomorrow.

"We have more or less finalised the list, including Sabah and Sarawak.

"I will be meeting with Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu tomorrow to finalise the list."