

# Polls observer group's report to be released soon

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Commonwealth Observer Group's report on Malaysia's recent general election will be released during the current meeting of the Dewan Rakyat, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the report would be released outside the House together with the Government's comments on the report. The current meeting ends on Feb 13 next year.

Dr Mahathir said: "The report is not for debate. It will also not be released as an information paper.

"There is no necessity to release it in Parliament. We will merely release the report with our comments."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending the opening of the first session of the Eighth Parliament here this morning.

On his meeting with Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku yesterday, the Prime Minister said they discussed preparations for the Commonwealth's Group of 10's first meeting in London on Jan 21 and 22.

Dr Mahathir is expected to meet the new Prime Ministers of Britain, India and Singapore when he chairs the Commonwealth

Group of 10 meeting.

Besides Malaysia, Britain, India and Singapore, the other members are Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria and Zambia.

Chief Anyaoku arrived here on Saturday to attend a meeting to finalise a report on recommendations on the future of the Commonwealth. He had told newsmen yesterday that the report did not reflect the stand of the Commonwealth.

He explained that the observers operated as an independent body although he had organised their trip here at the request of the Malaysian Government.

Dr Mahathir had last month said that several points in the reports were inaccurate and misinterpreted.

Chief Anyaoku said he received the report from the group on arrival in London and then forwarded it to the Malaysian Government.

On the four-day official visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng from Monday, Dr Mahathir said the main purpose was to promote closer ties between the two countries.

Discussions are expected to focus on trade relations and other bilateral issues.

On a proposal during the recent Umno General As-

sembly that the Sedition Act be amended to allow more open discussion on matters covered by the Act, he said the Government had not done anything about it yet.

"We have only received the proposal from Umno. Umno is not the Gov-

ernment.

"We (the Government) will take this into consideration. If we feel it is important (to do so), we will review the Act."

On the present crop of MPs elected in the Oct 21 general election, Dr Mahathir said he hoped there

would be more lively debates.

"There will be no problem with mustering the quorum ... but we have lost one MP who had enlivened debates in the past.

"Hu Sepang is not with us anymore."

DAP's Mr Hu, the former

MP for Rasah, was the jester of the House and used to provide comic relief during tense debates or during heated question-and-answer sessions.

He lost his seat to Datuk Wong See Wah of the Barisan Nasional.