

# It's best ever tabled, says Dr Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Budget is the best ever tabled, particularly with its emphasis on the people's welfare, economic growth and national stability, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said he was happy with it although it was once regarded as a pre-election Budget.

Government critics had claimed that the Budget, which was originally scheduled to be tabled on Oct 26, was a pre-election ploy. The tabling of the Budget was postponed as Parliament was dissolved on Oct 5 to make way for the general election on Oct 20 and 21.

Dr Mahathir said although the Barisan Nasional won the general election, it did not introduce a new Budget today.

bled the 1991 Budget.

Dr Mahathir said the Budget was the Government's sincere way of developing a caring society.

"The Government wants to help as many people as it can, besides developing the economy. But we need the people's co-operation as they will benefit from it."

The Prime Minister said the Budget could not be said to be a tribute to workers only.

It was an appreciation by Government to all quarters who had contributed to promote national stability to enable progress, he said.

Dr Mahathir said he expected that people would react favourably to the Budget but this feeling of elation would be short-lived.

"Today, many people are happy ... but tomorrow this happiness will subside. By

next week, there will be people saying this is not good, that is not good.

"After a month, all that is left is the bad comments about the Budget."

He said it would not come as a surprise to him if eventually various experts announced their analysis to say that the Budget did not actually benefit any quarter.

On the Budget's tax relief to individuals and corporations, he said the Government could afford it.

He said the strategy was to increase productivity to enable the country's revenue to expand without imposing higher taxes on the people.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had sufficient funds to pay for its development projects with the existing tax collection system.

"We did not throw out the Budget merely because we have won the general election," he told newsmen at Parliament House after Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin ta-