

PM: We'll accept outcome of polls

ALOR STAR, June 1. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia will accept any outcome of the Cambodian elections.

He said Malaysia would accept the decision of the majority of the Cambodian people even if the opposition was elected to run the country.

"The situation in Cambodia is very promising. More than 90 per cent of those eligible to vote have turned out at the polls.

"In addition, there have been no serious riots or attacks by the Khmer Rouge. This means any outcome of the elections is acceptable by the majority of Cambodians."

On the Spratly Islands dispute, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia wanted all countries making a claim to decide the basis for discussion to enhance efforts to resolve the matter.

History, tradition or legal aspects could form the basis

for discussion, he said.

"Malaysia strongly believes that the Spratly Islands dispute can be resolved through discussions.

"It is also important to ascertain the basis for the discussion," he said when asked on Malaysia's stand on the issue.

Dr Mahathir said the claimants should decide which among the three basis should be considered for discussion.

"Once this is done, we will use the agreed basis to resolve the dispute among us. We will not use any basis which will only benefit us."

He said Malaysia would also submit its proposals on ways to resolve the dispute.

Representatives comprising low-level officials and scientists from the claimants — China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei — are meeting in Manila for three days beginning today to discuss joint development of the area.