

# Don't get too excited over party polls, says Dr M

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ALOR STAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised Umno members not to get too "excited" about November's party elections as it was a normal party election and had nothing to do with the general election.

"This is like any other party election," he said when asked for his views on the perceptions of certain party members that November's party election was the most important as it was a run-up to the general election which was expected to be held next year.

"If there is a general election next year, it has nothing to do with this year's party election. It's a normal (party) election. The party members should not be too excited, nor should the country be too excited about it," he added.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at his "open house" in

conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha today at his residence at Titi Gajah here.

Asked about the general election, he said: "We have until December 1995 to decide. We have plenty of time."

On the future of Sabah and Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said the people in the two States would lose if they did not want to join the Barisan Nasional.

"We are offering them the best. If they want to reject us, that's their right but they will lose. If they lose, don't blame the Federal Government."

He said the Barisan Nasional component parties, including Umno, were becoming more popular among the Sabah people despite attempts by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to instigate party members to join PBS.

The Prime Minister said the present situation in Sabah reflected the popularity of BN component parties.

Dr Mahathir, who visited the State yesterday, said the huge turnout at the opening of the second convention of

the Liberal Democratic Party and the launching of the Pesta Kaamatan was a reflection of the strong support from the people of Sabah to BN component parties.

If the people of Sabah were not instigated, he was confident they would strongly favour the BN.

"But sometimes our predictions do not turn out as we expect," he said, stressing that the BN was ready to face an election in Sabah.

He said there were attempts by the PBS in Sabah to instigate BN members to join it following the success in getting former Usno members who won their seats on Umno's help in the previous election.

"These people (former Usno Assemblymen) accepted the offers for posts and high pay," he added.

Asked how the BN would counter the tactics used by PBS to lure BN members, Dr Mahathir said the coalition would not resort to instigating or bribing.

"What we can do is to explain to them that the tactics are unhealthy and

would only be detrimental to Sabah.

"Even today, we can see the consequences of the tactics. To me it is a form of bribery," he added.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the people of Sabah that they should refrain from practising parochial politics.

"We must concentrate on unity of all races because we want to develop a nation which can ride challenges to achieve that aspiration."

Dr Mahathir said if unity prevailed in the country, Malaysia would be a developed nation by the year 2020.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir joined the people in performing the Hari Raya Aidiladha prayers at the Zahir mosque while Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah attended the prayers at Balai Besar.

Last night, Dr Mahathir handed over four head of cattle to the chairmen of villages' security and development committees of Jitra and Pendang for the *korban* (sacrificial feast).