

# Polls need not be held now, says PM

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MALACCA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said **Barisan Nasional** leaders should prepare for the general election but they should not be disheartened if the polls are not held now.

He said the general election need not necessarily be held now although conditions were favourable.

"The election will be held between now and the end of December 1995," he said on arrival at the **Batu Berendam** airport for a one-day visit to Ma-

lacca.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife **Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali**, said political leaders should continue with the efforts to develop the country as there is a lot to be done.

"Developing a country is a long-term struggle and after we are developed, we want to continue developing. This is all for the people and not the leaders," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that leaders were entrusted with the task of co-ordinating and administrating

the development of the country, and not projecting themselves or becoming dignitaries.

He said the leaders and the people should preserve the prevailing peace to ensure the country's continued development.

"There is no point in becoming the leader of a country without peace as we will be despised," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if everyone played their part to preserve the peace in the country, people who come from afar to in-

vest would be happy because they would be able to reap returns beyond their expectations in 10 years' time.

He said imposing pressure would not bring any benefit as such pressure would only lead to riots and place the country in an unpleasant situation.

"We cannot be like some countries which resort to extremism and pressure certain sectors like religious groups to the extent of creating an unhealthy situation in the country," he said.