

BN's effective cure

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for election fever

BY ERROL OH

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the Barisan Nasional has an "effective cure" for the election fever which he said is being whipped up by the Opposition.

He, however, chose to keep the formula for the "cure" a secret but added that the Opposition would never be able to counter it.

Speaking at the opening of the 41st MCA general assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir's light-hearted comments on the growing speculation about the general election drew laughter from guests and delegates.

"As we all know, it appears that election fever has set in. Many feel the fever originated from the Opposition. It will not have spread if the Opposition had not

transmitted it.

"Maybe fearing that only their members had been infected, they spread it to the Barisan Nasional members," he said.

He reminded the people that the Barisan Nasional has the mandate to gov-

ern the country until October next year.

Reiterating that the coalition was yet to decide when to hold the next polls, Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional is always prepared.

"We in the Barisan Na-

sional are not worried about the election fever because we have an effective medicine (*ubat yang mujarab*) as proven in previous elections," he added.

When asked about the *ubat* at a Press conference after the ceremony, he declined to elaborate. However, he said the Opposition will not have an answer when the Barisan Nasional used it.

Earlier, in his speech, the Prime Minister said Malaysians should be thankful that besides the country being peaceful and stable, its economy had performed admirably well.

"Not only have we recorded economic growth exceeding eight per cent for six consecutive years but even more encouraging is that this growth was achieved with a low inflation rate and stable prices.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said it is also fortunate that the country's strong growth is enjoyed by Malaysians of all races.

He added that there were abundant employment and business opportunities in the country. Only those unwilling to work hard would not stand to benefit from the economic boom.

In his presidential address, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik called on the Chinese community to support the party to ensure continued peace and harmony.

"We know that the 1990s will pose many new challenges to the community and the country. We believe the time has come to garner all Chinese support towards realising the goals set out in Vision 2020.

"As the nation spends the next two-and-a-half decades trying to realise the nine central challenges outlined in Vision 2020, the vital factor that will ensure the success or failure of these objectives will be unity," he added.