

# Election date yet to be decided: PM

BY FREDDIE NG

THE guessing game on the date of the general election continues as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad dismissed a vernacular paper's speculation that he would announce the dissolution of Parliament yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, the Umno president said the only certainty was that the general election would be held this year as the current Parliament term expires in October.

"The supreme council had a lengthy discussion about preparations for the elections," he said.

"However, as to the date, we have decided that we will not yet decide," he quipped.

Dr Mahathir also announced the appointment of Datuk Salleh Tun Mohammad Said as chairman of both Barisan Nasional and Sabah Umno liaison committees to replace Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai who resigned to take up a new posting as the Yang Di Pertua Negeri of Sabah.

Salleh, who is not a member of the supreme council, was present at the meeting.

He said Salleh was allowed to attend as an observer after taking an oath of secrecy so that he could listen to the deliberations of the council.

On Pas, Dr Mahathir said the party had clearly shown that it did not deserve to maintain the word "Islam" in its name as it continued to cast aspersions on Umno.

"It is now revealed that Pas does not conform to the teachings of Islam."

Dr Mahathir said this was evident from the way Pas leaders deliberately twisted Umno's resolution urging the Government to ban the use of the word "Islam" from the official names of political parties.

He said Pas had instead twisted this into a claim that Umno wanted to cast out Islam.

"We are only against Pas using the word Islam in its name," he added.