

PM: BN will win election 'unless the unexpected occurs'

Umno is all geared up

By Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno has completed all preparations for the general election although the dates for nominations and election have yet to be determined, its president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the supreme council, which met for three hours, deliberated in detail the party's preparations.

"Today's meeting focussed on the general election which must be held this year. I cannot tell you the dates but it will be in 1995," he told reporters after chairing the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was confident that it would be able to counter the lies spread by the Opposition and he added that he strongly believed that the Barisan Nasional would win the election "unless the unexpected takes place".

He said Umno would be able to confront the issues raised by the Opposition by explaining the truth.

"Even in Kelantan, we believe we will perform well," he said.

Elaborating on the situation in Penang, he said Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang had embarked on Tanjung One, Tanjung Two, Tanjung Three and now Tanjung Four.

"Even in the last election he said he will resign if the DAP failed to capture Penang.

"When the party failed to gain the majority and form the Government he said he wanted to resign but his supporters wanted him to stay on.

"He will continue with Tanjung Five, Tanjung Six, Tanjung Seven, Tanjung Eight and so on.

"Good luck to him," he said.

He said the council also expressed its condolences to the families of the former Sabah Yang di-Pertua Negeri and former Chief Minister Tun Mustapha Datu Harun and Deputy Rural Development Minister Mohamad Yassin Kamari who died on Jan 2 this year and

He said Umno would follow its traditional process of the divisions proposing names of candidates for the parliamentary and State constituencies.

"The proposals will be submitted to the State liaison committees which will then submit them to the supreme council.

"The supreme council will make a final decision and all members must close ranks and support the candidates selected by the leadership," he said.

Dr Mahathir said today's meeting did not discuss the choice of candidates but added that the normal selection process would be followed.

When asked whether he thought the situation in Terengganu and Penang would be precarious for the Barisan Nasional, Dr Mahathir said he certainly did not believe so.

Dec 28 last year respectively.

He said the council also appointed Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Mohammad Said as the Sabah Umno State liaison committee chief, replacing Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai who quit as Chief Minister and was appointed the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah.

Salleh will be permitted to attend all Umno supreme council meetings although he is not a member of the council.

"Salleh will have to take an oath of secrecy because he will be listening to the deliberations, some of which might be confidential," he said.

He said Manan Jakasu was appointed the Semiporna Umno division chief, also replacing Sakaran, and Mohamad Aziz as head of the Seri Gading division following the death of Yassin.