

# Parliament to convene in July, says Dr M

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ALOR STAR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the first meeting of Parliament would be held in July, which would be three months after the general election.

The Prime Minister told reporters this when asked about the date of the first parliamentary sitting.

When Parliament convenes in July, the House will have 192 seats — 162 seats will be occupied by the Barisan Nasional

and the others by members of opposition parties comprising the DAP, Parti Bersatu Sabah, Pas and Parti Melayu Semangat 46.

Asked whether the amendments to the Land Acquisition Act 1960 would be tabled at the sitting, Dr Mahathir said they would not as a study on the weaknesses of the Act had yet to be conducted.

In March, Dr Mahathir said certain provisions in the Act would be reviewed to rectify the weaknesses.

The Act, after being amended in 1991, was

strongly criticised because of the manner land was acquired.

Asked about the problem of consumers getting sugar, Dr Mahathir said there was no shortage of the item.

On the action of certain traders hiking up the price of sugar, the Prime Minister said they were taking advantage of the festive season.

Dr Mahathir warned the errant traders that the Government would revoke their licences if they increased the price of the controlled item.

"Don't hike up the prices; it is not proper at

this time. There is enough supply of sugar but they purposely do not want to sell enough sugar and that's how the problem arises," he said.

Asked to comment on complaints from the public that the price of other food items had also been on the increase, the Prime Minister said the matter would be handled by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

Asked how serious the problem was, Dr Mahathir said: "It is not that serious but there are people taking advantage of the festive season be-

cause of high demand. We will control the situation."

The Prime Minister, who arrived here today, earlier handed four heads of cattle to the *imam* of the mosques in Hosba, Kampung Kemuning, Sungai Tiang and Kampung Titi Gajah for *korban* (sacrifice) in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidil Adha.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will hold an open house for the people at Dewan Jitra in Jitra between 9.30am and 1.30pm tomorrow.