

14/08/1998

Dr M: Tour not linked to early general election

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today dismissed suggestions that his current nation-wide tour was aimed at garnering the people's support for an early general election.

Instead, he said, it was to explain to Malaysians the economic problems affecting the country.

Asked whether his tour was in preparation for an early general election, Dr Mahathir said:

"That's what the foreigners think. I am going around the country to inform the people about what is the economic problem."

He was speaking at a Press conference after opening an exposition on Malaysian-made products organised by the National Singers, Musicians and Songwriters Association at the Subang Jaya Municipal Council ground.

He said explanation on the current economic problems was necessary as they were complicated and could not be easily understood by the people.

"During this difficult times, some people are still living well because of high prices of commodities like palm oil, rubber and cocoa as well as some flourishing businesses.

"Such a situation makes it difficult for the people to understand the economic woes Malaysia is facing.

"I have to explain to them that the slowdown will leave adverse effects on us, that's why we have to explain, I reckon I have to do the explaining myself," he said.

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