

Get ready for polls, PM tells Barisan parties

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LABUAN: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday Barisan Nasional parties should make all the necessary preparations for the general election.

"They should get ready as directed by the party headquarters," the Prime Minister told reporters after a closed-door meeting with Barisan party leaders here.

Dr Mahathir, who also met Labuan Umno leaders earlier, said he explained the concept of Umno and the coalition to local party leaders.

He said what was important was for each component party to help the others in the elections and see every Barisan candidate as their candidate and not a candidate of an individual party.

On his last leg of a nationwide tour to explain the political and economic situation in the country, Dr Mahathir said he also explained why former Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from the Government.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here on a one-day working visit prior to going to Sabah, said that the opposition parties did not have any programme but wanted to garner votes by stirring up hatred against Barisan and him.

The Umno president said the opposition parties which only formed pacts before elections had different objectives and their goals were opposed to one another.

Dr Mahathir said that the Labuan people supported Barisan as they understood the Federal Government's policies and the Barisan concept of sharing.

Dr Mahathir also addressed a meet-the-people gathering at Labuan Square.