

# Dr Mahathir to launch annual convention

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KOTA KINABALU, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to launch the third annual Sabah Barisan Nasional Convention here on Feb 20.

State BN secretary Datuk Karim Bujang said the theme of this year's convention was "Together in Building Our Future".

About 3,000 delegates from the nine BN compo-

nent members in the State are expected to attend it.

The convention is aimed at strengthening unity in the coalition for the upcoming State election.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, is scheduled to make a three-day visit to Sabah beginning Feb 18.

At his Hari Raya open house at Taman Sri Gaya, Karim, who is Assistant Finance Minister, said

preparation for the convention was progressing smoothly.

He said BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat would deliver a working paper at the convention.

"Representatives from the nine parties will be given a chance to debate on how best unity could be further strengthened in the BN," Karim said.

Asked if the convention

was a prelude to the State election, he said the current term of the State Legislative Assembly was already coming to an end.

"Whether or not the Assembly will be dissolved after the convention is not an issue as its current term is already coming to an end," he said.

The current term of the 48-seat State Legislative Assembly expires on March 18.