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Barisan told to prepare for general election

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed the Barisan Nasional in all States to gear up their machinery for the general election.

BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said although the Prime Minister did not mention possible election dates, thorough preparation was necessary from now.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, wanted the election machinery to be geared up to ensure that the coalition would be returned to power, he said.

"Proper and thorough preparation is part of victory. Therefore, Dr Mahathir wants every BN component party to be prepared and strengthen their machinery.

"So far, the Prime Minister is satisfied with the preparation made by BN components in Johor," Mohamed told reporters after Dr Mahathir met State BN leaders this morning.

The closed-door meeting was also attended by Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman who is also State BN chairman and State Umno liaison chief, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and MIC deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir had a closed-door meeting with leaders of Johor Umno including those from the party's Youth and Wanita wings.

The Prime Minister, who was on the second day of his two-day working visit to the State, also visited an exhibition put up at the hotel on products made in Johor, including furniture and palm oil-based products.

Later in the day, he performed Friday prayers at Felda Taib Andak mosque near Kulai, and addressed the crowd at a meet-the-people session at Felda Pengeli Timur in Kota Tinggi before returning to Kuala Lumpur via Sultan Ismail Airport in Senai.

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