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Decision timely, say BN leaders

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Barisan Nasional and State party leaders today described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement of the dissolution of Parliament as timely.

They also stated their readiness in facing the polls and expressed confidence that the BN would win.

\* Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik (MCA president):

"The BN will continue to go to the ground to ensure the coalition's victory in the election. When we went around the country, we were convinced that the people knew that the coalition had governed well.

"We have built the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, known to be a very good airport. We have the LRT, a good North-South highway, a good port and there is a lot of prosperity coming around."

\* Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu (MIC president speaking to Bernama from Toronto, Canada where he is attending the World Intelligent Transport System Conference)

"The Barisan Nasional will win hands down in the upcoming general election in view of its excellent track record and dynamic leadership."

\* Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar (Selangor Menteri Besar):

"I have full confidence that Barisan Nasional will get the majority of the Parliament and State seats in view of the track-record and with the undivided support of the voters.

"Barisan Nasional is confident of the people's support due to the economic recovery. Poverty cases have been reduced tremendously and the Government also strongly supports small and medium scale industries.

"The State Assembly will be dissolved tomorrow in line with the dissolution of Parliament. The BN election machinery will swing into immediate action."

\* Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad (Terengganu Menteri Besar):

"The BN election machinery is prepared for the general election.

"The respective Umno divisions will have to submit the names to the State Umno liaison committee as soon as possible. This will allow us to forward the nominations to the party president.

"At least seven new faces could be nominated. Those who won in the 1995 general election have a good chance of being retained."

\* Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar (Penang Deputy Chief Minister):

"BN elected representatives, supporters and members must give full support to whoever is picked to contest. We have all worked very hard for our party and should keep doing so for the people. We are always prepared and will now work even closer as a team to ensure victory for all BN candidates."

\* Datuk Yahya Hussin (Sabah Umno Liaison Committee secretary): "We are ready and ask for all to support whoever is nominated as candidates. Do not question the choice of candidates."

\* Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum (Penang State MCA chief): "I am not surprised by the Prime Minister's announcement of Parliament's dissolution.

"As far as the Penang MCA is concerned, we are all prepared for it. The Prime Minister's pledge that incumbent candidates will be retained in their respective seats can be an indicator of how far the Penang MCA has prepared itself."

\* Datuk R. Raghavan (Malacca State MIC chairman):

"We, in the MIC, have been waiting anxiously for this. The Opposition

parties are running out of ideas and do not have concrete issues.

"We will give our full support to all BN candidates fielded in the election. There is no way the Opposition can deprive the BN of the two-thirds majority if all members stay united."

\* Datuk Law Hieng Ding (Sarawak United People's Party deputy president): "An early election is good as the country will be able to put behind all uncertainties and concentrate on development sooner. The call for an election now is good timing as the country is on the road towards an economic recovery.

"I am confident the Barisan Nasional will win a two-thirds majority to form a stable Government.

\* Datuk Dr James Masing (Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak vice-president): "The dissolution of Parliament is timely. I agree that election must be held before Hari Raya celebration. We in PBDS fully support the dissolution of Parliament and we are ready for it."

\* Richard Yong (Sabah Progressive Party Information chief): "The party is prepared to face the election and we will mobilise its machinery immediately.

"We will try our best to contribute to the victory of BN as the ruling coalition can bring prosperity."

\* Datuk Christine Van Houten (United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation Wanita movement chief): "We are prepared to face the election.

"I hope the newly revived Upko will be given more seats especially in Kadazandusun and Murut areas. We will also ask for seats for the Wanita movement, but we leave it to the BN leadership to decide."

\* Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad (Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar): "The dissolution of the State assembly will be done tomorrow as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman has signed the proclamation letter.

"The letter will be delivered to the State Election Commission by the State Legal Adviser tomorrow to announce the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly."

\* Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob (Umno secretary-general and BN's director of operations)

"Barisan Nasional has a very good chance of retaining its two-thirds majority."

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