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Dr M hints at polls soon

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hinted at the possibility of the general election being held soon.

Asked by reporters whether Parliament would be dissolved immediately after the tabling of the Budget scheduled for Oct 29, he said: "We might dissolve it ... if we have enough voters (support)".

He dismissed speculation that the election might be held before Budget Day.

"I give you my assurance, Oct 29 will be Budget day ... so cannot be election-lah," he said after launching the Islamic Specialist Doctors Association Malaysia (ISDAM) at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Also present were his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and ISDAM president Dr Sidek Nontak. Dr Siti Hasmah is the patron of ISDAM.

The Prime Minister said the Budget for next year would reflect the country's economic recovery.

"We have done much better than expected, so this will be reflected in the Budget."

Asked whether the Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting on Oct 25 was to decide on the election date, Dr Mahathir said it was just a normal meeting.

"It is the usual meeting, not to decide on the election (date).

"However, matters pertaining to the election will be discussed, we always discuss them," Dr Mahathir added.

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