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Mahathir-Candidates

DR MAHATHIR TO DECIDE ON FINAL LIST OF BN CANDIDATES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will personally decide on the final list of the Barisan Nasional candidates for the General Election.

He also said the allocation of seats among BN component parties would be based more or less on the formula used previously.

"We will select the candidates in our own way and I as the BN Chairman will decide on the final list," he told reporters after chairing the BN Supreme Council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

"This has become a practice and once we have decided on who will be the candidates we in the Barisan will close ranks and support them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN did not fix candidates for the General Election through a meeting.

He also said BN component parties had been advised not to discuss the question of candidates or allocation of seats in the open as this would give rise to controversies.

Dr Mahathir said the general election would be held no later than June next year.

The term of the present Parliament ends in June of next year. The last General Election was held on April 24 and 25, 1995.

Dr Mahathir also said the BN had set up a committee to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Barisan Nasional this year.

The committee is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the BN Secretary-General Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat is its secretary, Tun Daim Zainuddin is the treasurer and all 14 heads of the BN component parties are the committee members.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AAM