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Mahathir-Polls

EARLY POLLS POSSIBLE BASED ON PEOPLE'S RESPONSE - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the good response he is receiving from the people during his visits to the states may prompt him to call for an early general election.

"It's possible," the prime minister said while nodding his head and smiling, when asked if the good response meant he would announce the dissolution of parliament earlier.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, was speaking to reporters after chairing the party's supreme council meeting here tonight.

Asked if the good response indicated the people were united in their support for the Barisan Nasional, he said that must be so unless they were hippocrates.

"From the faces of the people who attended the gatherings, they appear to be sincere and they were rushing to shake hands. We are very happy with such reception," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he would make another one or two rounds of visit to the states after completing the first round.

Dr Mahathir, who has so far visited Pahang, Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak and Kelantan, will continue his tour with visits to the the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

The Umno chief said tonight's meeting also discussed the party's preparations for the general election.

The meeting also heard feedback from state Umno leaders and other council members who had made visits to the states.

"The meeting also stressed the importance of us verifying the new electoral roll that will be displayed by the Election Commission later," said Dr Mahathir.

He added that the meeting also discussed the Barisan Nasional's silver jubilee celebrations.

--BERNAMA

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