

11/11/1999

Meetings to finalise candidates

Marhalim Abas; Abdul Razak Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he would immediately start meeting the 14 Barisan Nasional component party leaders to finalise the list of candidates for the general election.

Speaking after chairing a one-hour meeting of the BN Supreme Council at the Putra World Trade Centre tonight, the coalition's chairman said a general consensus on the division of seats had been reached.

"There is no change unless we are forced to," he said.

He added he would also meet all Umno State Liaison chiefs and Chief Ministers for the list of candidates for the State Assembly seats.

Asked when he expected the meetings to begin, Dr Mahathir said: "From now onwards... because there are many I have to meet...14 parties and from 13 States."

The meeting tonight also discussed the dissolution of Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies, and "why an early dissolution of Parliament was decided.

"We agreed that we will contest as the Barisan Nasional; we will use BN banners, BN flags and the BN symbol. No other symbol will be used," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said there was a possibility of a supplementary BN manifesto for Sabah and Sarawak, although no decision had yet been made on it.

"We will have one manifesto for all, but because there are certain local issues which might be of interest only for Sabah and Sarawak, they might have a supplementary manifesto which does not clash with the overall manifesto," he added.

Asked what would be the main issues which would be used by the BN, the Prime Minister said the BN did not use issues but looked at its overall achievements.

"Our issue is to set up a strong and good Government that will be good for everyone and the whole country," said Dr Mahathir.

(END)