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Polls-Public
NOD FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS BEFORE RAMADAN

ALOR SETAR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Members of the public here have given the nod to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to dissolve the Parliament tomorrow to allow the general election to be held before the fasting month of Ramadan.

Trader Hussin Darius, 40, said the move was most appropriate as the holy month of Ramadan should not be marred by undesirable activities during campaigning.

"During the fasting month not only we are prohibited from eating and drinking but also from things like slandering and profanities," he told Bernama.

Dr Mahathir, in a press conference at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya this evening, said his decision to dissolve the Parliament tomorrow was to avoid campaigning that can be sacrilegious to the Muslim fasting month.

He said he had at first thought of calling for the 10th general election in January next year after Hari Raya Puasa but was inspired last night to dissolve parliament tomorrow so that the election could be held before the fasting month scheduled to commence on Dec 9.

Dr Mahathir said if the general election was to be held after Hari Raya Puasa, this meant Ramadan could be marred by undesirable activities like slandering, spreading of lies and hurling of abuses, which were very disrespectful of the holy month.

Civil servant Roslan Majid, 37, said the Prime Minister's decision showed that he respected Muslims and the fasting month.

"This is the true leader whom we want...know how to respect the holy month, not like others who claim to be speaking for Islam but at the same time were hurling profanities," he said.

For taxi driver Baharuddin Omar, 52, he said he was not surprise with tomorrow's Parliament dissolution and was also proud that the Prime Minister was respecting the fasting month.

"I think it is appropriate to hold election before the fasting month...anyhow preparations has long been made," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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