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Mahathir-Budget

TABLING OF FRESH BUDGET AFTER POLLS, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- A new federal budget for year 2000 will be presented to Parliament after the general election as the one tabled last month has yet to be passed by the legislature, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

This followed his announcement today to dissolve parliament tomorrow to pave the way for Malaysia's 10th general election.

It would depend on the incoming government whether the fresh budget would be the same one presented two weeks ago, he said replying to questions at a press conference after announcing tomorrow's dissolution of parliament at the Prime Minister's Department here.

He said that if the Barisan Nasional won, it would be the same budget, but added in jest that "there is someone else who wanted to be prime minister, how will we know."

Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail first broke the news of the dissolution at when the Dewan Rakyat resumed today's sitting at 2.30 pm after lunch-break.

Zahir told the House he received a letter from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at 12.45 pm to inform him of the royal consent for the dissolution of parliament.

The dissolution put to rest months of speculation and anxiety of a snap general election being held well ahead of the expiry of the term of the current parliament in June next year.

First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin presented a very generous people and business-friendly Budget 2000 last Oct 29.

-- BERNAMA

ES/ARA MR RYN