

# BN must unite to face coming state elections

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Internal problems should be resolved amicably, says Mahathir

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**KUCHING, Fri:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised state Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to ensure that they are truly united to face the upcoming state election.

"Any internal problems, whether big or small, must be resolved amicably, and if all the component parties could reinforce their cooperation, we will be able to face the election with more confidence," he said.

BN secretary Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, gave the advice at a two-hour closed door meeting with leaders of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) today.

The meeting was held immediately upon the arrival of the Prime Minister and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who are here on a two-day official visit.

Asked whether the date for the state election was dis-

cussed at the meeting, Mohamed said it was not on the agenda.

Mahathir only emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation among the component parties to ensure a 100% victory in the eighth state election, which must be held by Nov-

ember this year.

On former Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Abang Mustapha's decision to contest against Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud in Asajaya, Mohamed said Abang Abu could not use his frustrations to win sup-

port of the people.

He said: "A frustrated politician would not be able to win any seat. History has shown that they do not have a place in Sarawak politics.

"Sarawak still needs the BN to continue with the development programmes."