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Snap election wish won't be granted

THE Barisan Nasional Government still has three years in office before the next general election and there is no reason whatever why a snap election should be called soon. The opposition must have run out of issues to bait the Government in predicting that a snap election was in the offing. What caused them to speculate on an early election is anybody's guess.

Perhaps the opposition is desperate for power and they cannot wait for the BN to finish its term in the hope that they will win. But they are hoping in vain. BN is confident that, as in the past, the people will give it another mandate should there be a general election at any time. However, being in position to win does not necessarily mean that an election should be called, as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has emphasised. Our situation is different from Singapore.

There are no undue economic pressures on the Government, which the opposition may have been yearning for.

A general election is a serious matter. It requires considerable organisational, administrative and human resources to conduct a successful general election. An election is not fun and games, although there are banners, posters and fiery speeches which sometimes give it a carnival-like atmosphere. Maybe the opposition miss the excitement of elections because they have a lot of free time on their hands and their party members are becoming complacent and bored. Thus, what better way to keep them on their toes than with talk of a snap election.

But the BN, as the ruling party, has to shoulder the heavy responsibility of running the Government, as it has done since independence and two years previously before that. It has to ensure that the people have jobs, food and shelter while maintaining peace and racial harmony. During the BN's five-year term, much hard work still lies ahead to develop the country which takes up a lot of time and effort of the BN's elected representatives.

Unless it is absolutely necessary, a snap election is an event to be avoided, rather than being relished. The opposition wants an early election but the BN Government is in no hurry. The opposition wants a snap election but Dr Mahathir, rightly, is not granting it.

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