

PM: Sacrifices needed for allocation of seats

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JÓHOR BARU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has appealed to Barisan Nasional component parties to accept any decision he makes on the number of seats to be allocated to each party in the next general elections.

He said his decision on seat allocation might not satisfy some parties but sacrifices would have to be made in the Barisan spirit.

Dr Mahathir said while there would be additional seats allocated for the component parties following the delineation exercise, the number requested and that given would not be the same.

“Parties will be asking for more seats but they c¬ expect to get the number they want. There may be some dissatisfaction arising from this but they should accept the seats that (I) have decided and allocated to them.

“Since I have to decide on this, I appeal to all Barisan members to accept my decision in good faith.

“But believe me, the allocation of seats will be made fairly. Whatever decision I make, I will put the interest of Barisan above all,” he said, when addressing a 10,000-strong crowd at the closing of the Johor Barisan Nasional con-

vention yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Barisan chairman, urged component parties to look beyond politics and elections to foster closer relations between leaders and grassroots members.

He said the close co-operation should also be translated to non-political activities such as sports events and other social-based events.

“Component parties at all levels, especially divisions and branches should organise football or badminton matches where competing teams should comprise members from various parties.

“Sports, recreational and

social activities are the best means to bridge differences. It is not enough to forge alliances and co-operate during elections and for political purposes only,” he said.

The Prime Minister, who expressed gratitude for the support and commitment by Barisan component parties called for continuous struggle for what the coalition believed in.

“The element of co-operation, understanding must also come with give and take. We have to accept certain decision which may not favour a particular party but we have to make some sacrifices,” he added.