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Mahathir-Election

ABDULLAH WILL DECIDE WHEN TO HOLD SABAH ELECTION, SAYS PM

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will decide when is the best time to call for the Sabah state election.

Asked whether the coming state election would be held any time soon, Dr Mahathir said: "Yes, I think so but I do not know how soon...I think I will leave it to my successor (to decide)."

Reporters covering the Prime Minister's media conference at the end of his one-day visit to Sabah also asked him whether Sabah should hold its election ahead of the national polls and what was his preference on the matter.

To those questions, he said that the issues were also for Abdullah to decide.

"It is not the question of my liking. What I like doesn't matter," said Dr Mahathir who will retire in October this year.

The current term of the Sabah state legislative assembly expires on April 12 next year while the term of parliament will end on Dec 20 2004.

Asked on suggestion that the state Barisan Nasional (BN) presents the victory in the state election as a present to Dr Mahathir, the Prime Minister said: "Alhamdulillah...if they were to give me such a present. If after I've retired, I'll still be grateful".

-- BERNAMA

JS RM