

Dr M: No need to be hasty in calling for GE13

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The Pakatan Rakyat (PR) may not dissolve the legislative assemblies in the states under its rule simultaneously with the dissolution of Parliament in conjunction with the 13th general election, said former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said this could be one of the strategies of the opposition pact to focus its attention and strength to the states under Barisan Nasional (BN) rule.

"The election at the state assembly level will depend on the respective state governments whether to dissolve the assembly or otherwise. If all the state legislative assemblies in the four states under the PR are not dissolved, we will see the election being confined only to the states under BN rule.

"As such, they (PR) already have four states under their rule. They will concentrate on the other states to expand their domination.

"However, if the general election is held too close to the expiry of the five-year mandate, they (PR) will have no choice (but to dissolve the state assemblies)," he told reporters after meeting with the organisers of the Sahara Run at the Perdana Leadership Foundation, Putrajaya today.

Suwaibah Mohd Nasir, a former Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) personnel, will start the 1,112 kilometre solo run across the Sahara Desert from Aswan to Port Said for 35 days beginning Feb 1, next year.

Dr Mahathir said the BN government did not have to be hasty in holding the general election because the current mandate only expired in March 2013.

"We still have time.

"Preparations need to be made before the general election. We need to carry out tests and research to find out public opinion on the efforts made by the government.

"The people will wait. The promises made probably will not be fulfilled. If they don't walk the talk, it's difficult. So, better walk the talk," he said.

On the 2012 Budget, Dr Mahathir said the BN government must ensure that projects were successfully implemented because the people would gauge the government's performance.

- Bernama