

# Dr M: BN in a good position to win

**PUTRAJAYA:** Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that Barisan Nasional (BN) is in a good position to win the next general election.

The question, however, is whether BN will obtain a majority, he said, as a weak government would be attacked by the opposition.

"I think they are busy campaigning to make sure they can win. The Umno General Assembly was quite good, the response was quite good. It looks like Umno is now back to being popular with the people," he said at the Perdana Leadership Foundation.

Mahathir said the election might be held sometime next year, although the Parliament is not due to end its term until 2013.

"If the election is held too early, states under opposition control might not want to go through with it because they want to retain those states and make a bid for other states. Maybe that would be their strategy. But if the election is held very near the end of the term, there is no benefit for them. So they will have to come together, have the election together. It is up to the government to consider this," he said.

Asked whether Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's court case will play a role in the next election, Mahathir said: "One way or another he will play a role." - Bernama