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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	22/10/2012

Dr M: Polls can be called anytime

NST - 22/10/2012

UP TO NAJIB: Whether it is at year-end or next year is not important, says former PM

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WITH still no indication when the 13th general election will be called, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says anytime is a good time for the announcement.

Asked if the ruling coalition was ready, the former premier said Datuk Seri Najib Razak could still afford to wait.

"But if he waits, other people will also be ready," he said.

"I think anytime is a good

enough time (to call for election)." Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending Universiti Teknologi Petronas' 12th convocation ceremony. He is also the university's chancellor.

On a statement by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz that the general election should be held next year so the government can fulfil pledges made in the 2013 Budget, Dr Mahathir said it all depended on the prime minister.

"Now that we are coming to the end of the year, it does not really

matter whether it is end of (the) year or beginning of next year."

Dr Mahathir had previously been quoted to have said Barisan Nasional was "quite ready" to face the general election if it is called in November.

The term for the parliamentary session ends in April next year.

On the RM40 million donation to Sabah Umno, which had been questioned by the opposition, Dr Mahathir said giving money for elections was nothing new.

"During my time, people donated a lot of money to parties, not just ruling parties but also op-

position parties.

"They (the donors) are hedging, in case opposition parties win as they also want to be on good terms with the opposition."

Earlier, in his speech to the graduates, Dr Mahathir said their success should not be measured by the posts and positions they held but rather, how they contributed to society. "In the university you can gain the necessary knowledge but if you misuse the knowledge, it will be detrimental, too."

He advised the graduates to have high moral values and reject negative ones.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad
says opposition parties also received donations