

Wait till parliamentary term ends to hold GE15, says Dr M

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PUTRAJAYA: The best time to hold the 15th General Election (GE15) is when the current-14th parliamentary term ends, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Given the present situation of spiralling inflation and rising

cost of living, the Langkawi member of parliament said the best date for Malaysians to vote is in July next year.

"The best date for GE15 is to follow the election schedule.

"However, I notice that the government is taking advantage (of

the current situation) as the opposition parties are not yet ready (to face GE15).

"They (government) want an early election so they can win," Dr Mahathir, who is also Pejuang chairman, told a press conference at the party headquarters here yesterday.

According to the 14th parliamentary schedule, Parliament is due to be dissolved in July next year.

In a recent interview with Nikkei Asia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob was quoted as saying that now would not be the right time to hold a general election.

However, when Umno leaders openly applied pressure on him during Barisan Nasional's 48th

anniversary convention early this month, Ismail Sabri vowed to call a general election as soon as the coalition was ready to face one.

When asked who was the best person to be the prime minister candidate for the opposition, Dr Mahathir refused to mention any name.

"Pejuang hasn't decided yet. We have to see first who are the candidates who will win (in GE15) and select them then.

"They (new leaders) are not necessarily from Pejuang alone, but other organisations, too, that have joined Pejuang to contest against BN."

On his ongoing exchange with his former protégé Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who recently called

him "irrelevant", Dr Mahathir said the Pekan MP had every right to do so.

"That's his opinion. Other people may have other ideas. He has every right to regard everybody as irrelevant," he quipped.

On criticisms levelled at Najib after he was invited to the palace for a meal with the Yang di-Per-tuan Agong a few weeks ago, Dr Mahathir said this should not have happened.

"In my opinion, a convict should not be invited to the palace.

"It is not right because it shows some kind of support from the palace," Dr Mahathir said.

Last month, lawyer Ambiga Sreenevasan said it was regrettable that the king had included Najib in his guest list during an event at the palace.

This was due to the various criminal charges levelled against the former prime minister.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:50	7:05	1:15	4:40	7:21	8:37
Penang	5:52	7:05	1:22	4:48	7:34	8:50
K. Lumpur	5:51	7:04	1:17	4:43	7:26	8:42
Johor Baru	5:45	7:00	1:08	4:34	7:14	8:29
Kuantan	5:46	7:00	1:11	4:37	7:19	8:35
Ipoh	5:51	7:02	1:20	4:46	7:30	8:46