

**Selection Of Winnable Candidates Will Cause Disputes - Mahathir
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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The selection of winnable candidates for the general election will cause disputes between the party leadership and members at the grassroots, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the selection of winnable candidates depended on the assessments made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his advisory panel.

However, he said those assessments and opinions would probably differ from the opinions of party members, and hence, would lead to a situation where a war would be launched to undermine the "winnable" candidate by dissatisfied parties.

"Hence, when the party has decided to name its candidates, all quarters must be made to give full support to ensure victory for the selected candidates," he said at the recording of the "Bicara Negarawan" programme at Perdana Leadership Foundation here Monday.

The panellists on the programme were Bernama Editor-in-Chief Datuk Yong Soo Heong, Utusan Malaysia deputy editor-in-chief Datuk Zaini Hassan and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) lecturer, Dr Jeniri Amir.

Present were Dr Mahathir's wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and his wife, Datin Seri Masnah Rais.

Dr Mahathir said Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, should explain to potential candidates the importance of getting support from the grassroots.

"It's vital to ensure victory for the party so that the people will benefit from it," he said.

When asked when was the most suitable time to hold the general election, Dr Mahathir said: "No harm in waiting a little longer."

"It can also give more time for Najib to decide who should be fielded," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir also said there were certain quarters who were trying to mock the country's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman's contributions as a freedom fighter as they refused to recognise Umno's struggle.

"They are mocking Tunku Abdul Rahman by claiming that he wasn't a freedom fighter, and instead, they are promoting the image of Malayan Communist Party chief Chin Peng. This is all done to win support in politics," he added.

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