

**Postponement Of Umno Elections Is Normal -- Dr Mahathir
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ALOR SETAR, June 27 (Bernama) -- The decision to put off the Umno elections scheduled for next year for 18 months is a normal action, and has been done previously, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

The former prime minister and former president of Umno said, he had also postponed an Umno election when he led the party due to several reasons.

"I have also postponed an Umno election. I postponed it because of internal turmoil, problems and splits," he told reporters during a visit to Ukir Mall which houses Pekan Rabu petty traders, here.

Yesterday, prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the decision of the Umno supreme council to postpone its election to give the opportunity for the party to serve the people and strengthen unity.

Najib, who is also UMNO president, said the postponement was made under clause 10.16 of the party constitution.

On his visit to Ukir Mall today, Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, said the number of traders was increasing.

The complex was a temporary placement for traders at Pekan Rabu following rebuilding of the iconic shopping complex which would take two-and-a-half years.

"When the traders moved here, it was feared that there might be no people (customers) but its was unfounded as there are many people, in fact, more people," he said.

He hoped that the State Government would build a bigger building due to the larger number of traders.

He also praised the traders at Ukir Mall who sold a variety of goods.

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