Dr Mahathir predicts election
"won't be too long from now"

SINTOK: Former Prime Min-
ister Tun Dr Mahathir Mo-
hamad said yesterday he feels
that the 13th general election
will be held soon as the situ-
ation "looks good" for the
ruling coalition.

"I think it (election) won't
be too long into the future
because there isn't much time
left; we only have until mid-
dle of next year. If we think
we can win, we can call the
election," he told reporters
after attending Universiti
Utara Malaysia's (UUM)
28th anniversary, here yes-

"If the people give us a
good support, that's the time to
call the election," he added.
"Even now, it looks good," he
said when asked when was a
suitable time to hold the
polls.

Earlier in his speech Dr
Mahathir said that leaders
should not only be adept at
administering the country but
also in managing its finance,
economy and scientific mat-
ters.

These are the skills needed
by the country in bolstering its
management and prevent it
said.

"That is why Malaysia al-
located 25 per cent of its an-
nual budget to education.
"This is an investment for
the future because we are con-
fident that if the people have
education, they will be able to
develop the country more
rapidly," he said.

He added that people were
aware of their responsibility to
constantly seek knowledge,
saying that each year; the ap-
plications to pursue studies in
private and public institutions
of higher learning had been on