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## Mahathir predicts election not long from now

**SINTOK:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he feels that the 13th general election will be held soon as the situation "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 middle 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.

"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 matters.

These are the skills needed by the country in bolstering its management and prevent it from becoming bankrupt, he said.

"That is why Malaysia allocated 25 per cent of its annual budget to education.

"This is an investment for the future because we are confident 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 applications to pursue studies in private and public institutions of higher learning had been on the increase. - Bernama