

PM to Sabahans: Query any policy

NST - 4 APR 1985

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has given the people an assurance that they are free to question the policies of the Government or act on any matter about which they have misgivings, except those relating to the sovereignty of the country.

The Prime Minister said some of the programmes and policies of the Government could be amended if the majority of the people so desired it, as long as the integrity

and sovereignty of the nation were not questioned.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said this in his message in the Barisan Nasional-Berjaya manifesto for the coming Sabah State elections.

He said Berjaya, as the Barisan Nasional representative in the State, was seeking a new mandate based on its outstanding achievements in the political, social and economic fields.

In its nine years of rule, the party had brought about greater political stability, prosperity, and

economic and social justice, he added.

Dr Mahathir said since Berjaya was elected into office by the people in 1976, it had preserved the freedom and rights of the Sabah people as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

When the mandate was renewed in the 1981 elections, the party continued with its development efforts to create a united and strong State, he said.

The Prime Minister said the support of the people of Sabah was once more needed to enable the Barisan Nasional to continue with efforts to

develop the nation and safeguard the rights of the people.

"It is now more than 22 years since Sabah had gained independence through Malaysia and no one can doubt that the people of Malaysia are free to question the policies of the Government or act on any matter which they have misgivings about, except those relating to the sovereignty of the nation," he said.

In his message, Berjaya president Datuk Harris Salleh invited the people of Sabah to work with the party in strengthening unity and maintaining the well-being and security of the State.

Datuk Harris was confident the people of the State would subscribe to the concept of a true multiracial society and he was sure they did not want to return to the era of communal politics that existed in Sabah before 1976.