

I don't have any property in Sabah: PM

MST - 5 APR 1985,

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today refuted allegations that he had property in Sabah and challenged those carrying out the whispering campaign to come out in the open.

"I dare them to openly make the allegations. We will see whether they are bold enough to do so."

The Prime Minister said these people had claimed that he was close to Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh because he had a lot of property in Sabah.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to about 5,000 people at Kampung Pimping in Membakut, 85km from here.

He reiterated Barisan Nasional's support for Berjaya and denied claims that the Federal Government would cooperate with other parties in the State.

In what is seen as the

'Berjaya has done a lot for Sabahans'

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KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. — The Federal Government is satisfied with the development achieved by the State under Berjaya, the Prime Minister said today.

The people had benefitted more under Berjaya, which came to power about nine years ago, than under the previous administration.

More socio-economic projects are being enjoyed by the urban and rural people of Sabah.

He was speaking to the people of Kampung Pimping in Membakut about 70km from here.

BN's absolute support for Berjaya, Dr Mahathir said: "We'll sink or swim together."

He added that Berjaya will always be part of Barisan Nasional regardless of the outcome of the election.

The Prime Minister, who is on a one-day visit to Sabah, said the Federal Government had worked with the present Berjaya leaders for a long time and was acquainted with their sin-

cere desire to develop the State.

He said the Federal Government would like to continue with the good working relationship that has been established.

Accusations

When the State was under Usno, it was difficult to establish a good working relationship as the party leaders often "stabbed the Federal

Government in the back", mostly through wild accusations.

He said the BN had rejected Usno because it had had an irresponsible attitude towards the people of Sabah.

Dr. Mahathir also rejected allegations that Usno had Umno to sponsor certain parties in Sabah to overthrow Berjaya.

Describing the allegations as unfounded, he said Umno would like to see Berjaya continue in power.

The Prime Minister said the smearing campaign by Opposition leaders knew no bounds.

On allegations that Berjaya had denied the people in the State their democratic rights, he said this could not be true since more than 75 per cent of the 220 candidates in the elections are Opposition members.

"If there was no democracy this would not have happened. During the period under Usno a number of people were denied the right to stand as election candidates."

Dr Mahathir regretted that religion was being used as an issue by the Opposition.

"When Berjaya challenged the Usno Government in 1976 there were allegations that Muslims would suffer should the party gain power. But now there are allegations that Berjaya was too Islamic."