

Why Berjaya must get full support — by Mahathir

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. — The Prime Minister today told the people of Sabah that they should support Berjaya in the election if they wanted to see the continuation of existing good relationship between the Federal Government and the State.

Though Sabah is a rich State, it still needed funds from the Federal Government for much of its development projects, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Federal Government had poured in billions for the construction of roads and for other projects for the benefit of the people in the State.

"I am not making a threat but the BN has to abide by certain principles," he told a muhibbah gathering at the municipal padang.

Despite a drizzle, the crowd re-

By ZAINON AHMAD

mained on the padang till the end of his speech.

Dr Mahathir said the parties in the BN, unlike the opposition parties in Sabah, co-operated with members of all the communities in the country.

But with the racialist tendencies of the opposition parties, it would be difficult for the Federal Government to co-operate with any of them, he said.

He said he was confident Berjaya would win the election because of its multi-racial concept which made it acceptable to all communities in the State.

"Though I am Prime Minister, I cannot be separated from the fact that I am also Barisan Nasional leader. As BN leader I must say that the BN is behind Berjaya," he said.

Dr Mahathir said a party which was in power before Berjaya was anti-Federal Government not because of any fault of the leaders in Kuala Lumpur but because "the abuse of power by the leaders of that party was held in check".

He said the leaders knew that the Federal Government would continue to be a check on their excesses in the interest of the rakyat. It was because of this that they hated the Federal Government.

"Though this is a muhibbah gathering, I cannot help but tell you this so that you won't be cheated."