

PM WARNS OF THE DANGERS

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PM: No crisis of confidence in the Govt — P2

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — The Barisan Nasional will continue to rule the country even if it wins by only a simple majority but it cannot be held responsible for the consequences, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Barisan had to tell the voters why it needed the two-third majority so that they would not make a mistake in their choice.

"If we don't (tell the people), then we are not carrying out our duties to the voters. There is no threat in this," he told reporters after meeting State Barisan leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan needed the two-third majority to ensure a strong and stable government for the people.

He said the Barisan would continue to rule the country even if it won by only a simple majority in the coming general election.

"But if there is no stability, if there

is a lot of jumping from one side to another, and if there are changes of government and if politics and the economy are destabilised, we cannot be blamed because we have already explained to the people the consequences of their actions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan could ensure that the interests of all races were protected because none of the component parties could do as it wished.

"In the coalition, none of the parties has a two-third majority. This is an

important fact to remember.

"Due to this, all parties have to cooperate among themselves and this would ensure that the interest of all races is safeguarded," he said.

He said that no single party in the Barisan could do as it pleased, for example, amend the Constitution as it had to consult other component parties.

He also said the Government did not foresee the need to amend the Federal Constitution to bar Members of Parliament from leaving one party for another.

Dr Mahathir returned to Kuala Lumpur this evening after two days in the State.