

PM: Govt won't sell country to win election

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JITRA, Thurs. — The Government will not sacrifice the future of the country by giving in to threats and demands just to remain popular and to win the general election, the Prime Minister stressed today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government was prepared to face the consequences even if its position was at stake.

"We are a responsible

Government and will fulfil our responsibilities for the sake of the people and the country.

"We are not going to sell the country just to win the elections.

"Our priority is to safeguard the interests of the people and the country. We do not want the country to turn bankrupt just for the sake of winning the general election," he said when opening the Kubang Pasu Umno division delegates' meeting at Sekolah Men-

engah Sultan Abdul Halim, Jenan, near here, this morning.

He added that the Government was not prepared to bribe the people into supporting it in the election so that it could continue to remain in power.

"Barisan Nasional wants to win but it does not want to become popular through irresponsible means.

"We are not going to make any promises, which will eventually destroy the country, just for the sake of wanting to be popular. We do not want to bribe the people into supporting us," he said.

He admitted that the Government was at the mercy of the people during general election.

"That is why certain quarters feel that the Government is weak during these times and try to capitalise on the situation by making all sorts of demands. They even threaten to topple the Government if the demands are not met.

"They feel the Government, fearing that it would lose in the elections, will give in to their demands.

"We will meet their demands if we are an irresponsible Government. We can sign an agreement today and promise

RAISE OWN FUNDS SEDC TOLD

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back to the people. Furthermore, the Government wants Bumiputeras to participate more in the economy and this can be achieved by handing over the companies to them," he said.

He also advised the SEDCs to generate their own funds because the Government was facing financial constraints and could not provide them with additional allocations.

"They should not generate their funds through bank loans using Government guarantees but by enhancing the quality of their management and productivity, like what the private sector is doing.

"I am sure the SEDCs can do this," he said.

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