

Impossible for BN to lose: Dr M

By Winslow Wong

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — It will be impossible for the Barisan Nasional to lose in the coming general election if component parties work as a team, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We can't lose unless we defeat ourselves.

"Even if we lose, it is not because of the opposition but our inability to look after our own interests," he told about 3,500 Federal Territory Barisan members and election workers.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan chairman, said the Barisan was not interested in only a simple majority.

"We want a two-thirds majority to enable us to rule the country better," he added.

He reminded Barisan component parties not to make statements through the Press or pass unnecessary resolutions against one another.

"If there is any suspicion, we can talk it out and clarify the matter," he added.

Referring to a recent resolution by the Federal Territory Gerakan urging Umno leaders not to practise double standards in their dealing with PAS, he said the Umno-PAS dialogues were aimed at easing tension between the two

parties.

He said Umno would continue to co-operate with other component parties although its leaders had been branded *kafir* by PAS.

"Umno is not a bluff as to cheat other parties," he added.

Taking a shot at PAS and the DAP, Dr Mahathir described the two parties "as full of sins."

He said the two parties made a lot of promises when the election was approaching.

"They make promises because they know they will not be able to keep them.

"But the Barisan is different. We fulfil our promises," he added.

He described DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang as "the country's greatest dictator."

Earlier, the MCA, Gerakan, MIC and the People's Progressive Party (PPP) pledged their support for all Barisan candidates in the election.

MCA president Tan Koon Swan said the Barisan was sensitive to the needs of the people and would try its best to solve their problems.

"We are not running away from these problems.

"On the contrary, the Barisan is determined to meet these problems face to face because it is our desire

and intention to solve them," he added.

MIC president Datuk S. Samy Vellu said the Barisan was the only party that could rule the country well because it had "the experience and expertise.

He said only the Barisan could ensure a future for the people.

"The Opposition don't have the skill or the experience to rule.

"They only have slogans on how to rule the country," he added.

Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik urged all Barisan leaders to refrain from making sensitive statements in view of the election.

He said Barisan component parties should accept the allocation of seats in the interest of the coalition.

He said opposition parties were not needed because all races, religions and cultures were represented within the Barisan.

PPP president Tee Ann Chuan said the Barisan should take note of the tactics used by PAS.

He said PAS was making "sweet promises" which had been accepted by certain Chinese leaders.

Barisan secretary-general Ghafar Baba said the FT Barisan was all set to face the election.

4 MAY 1986