

'Only the BN can deliver'

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THE Barisan Nasional (BN) is the only coalition that is sincere in its efforts to promote unity among the various communities in the country, including those in Sabah and Sarawak.

It is also the only coalition that is sincere in its promise of bringing about peace, unity and stability to the country. Its record and performance over the last 35 years is proof that it is the champion of the people.

Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said several opposition parties tried to form a pact like the one that the BN has but it is clear they are not sincere as is evident from their contesting each other in certain seats in the general election.

Unveiling the 13-point BN manifesto in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said the coalition, first formed in 1951, has stood the test of time and is not only for the elections.

He said it has been the tradition of the BN to protect the people and the electorate, be they rich or poor or from the urban or rural areas irrespective of race.

Dr Mahathir also said the BN has always struggled for development that is fair to all races.

He said the BN will ensure that no community is left behind in its effort to bring development to the country.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition front is only confined to two or three races and there are parties like the DAP and PAS who dare not cooperate openly. Even then, it is a poor imitation of the BN and usually fizzles out. In addition, it creates issues that cause disunity among the races after the general election.

Dr Mahathir urged the people not to deny it a two-thirds majority as in so doing, they will only deny themselves a strong

and stable government. He added that only a strong and stable government will be brave enough to take short-term measures that may be unpopular but are for the common, long-term benefit of all.

Dr Mahathir dismissed allegations by the opposition that a strong government is oppressive. He pointed out that since they have been able to speak up and are even allowed to come out with new publications that are critical of the Government, it shows that the Government is liberal.

Baseless accusations by the opposition had, in fact, adversely affected the economy and made the Government's efforts to develop the country more difficult.

He stressed, however, that it is the BN's aspiration to preserve democracy in the country. This is clearly evident from the decision to hold elections now, a whole year before its term expires in 1987.

The Prime Minister took the DAP to task for trying to prevent the general election by resorting to legal action. This shows that they are not democratic as they are trying to deny the people their democratic right to choose a government.

Dr Mahathir said the fact that there are illegal immigrants in the country proves that there are opportunities in the country and that it is peaceful and prosperous. "If we open our doors, there will be a flood of them wanting to come in.

"Malaysians who have emigrated to other countries such as Australia and Canada are no loss to us. They have made a decision and they will leave any time especially when things do not turn out to their liking. These people have no roots," he added.

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