

Opposition cannot fulfil promises: Mahathir

NSunT 27 JUL 1986

KLANG, Sat. — The Opposition cannot fulfil its promises because it is not sincere in its intentions to help the people, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He did not believe the DAP or Pas would have been able to improve the economic conditions in the country if they had been in power.

"Their allegations against the Government are all baseless. They want to instil hatred in the people against the Government. If the people hate the Government and vote them into power, then they can get to be a wakil rakyat or an MP... that is all they want. Only the Barisan Nasional can keep its promises and fulfil the needs of the people," he said at the opening of the Langat highway at Simpang Tujuh.

The Prime Minister said the Government had no motives other than to serve the people.

He advised the people not to "gamble (on) their destiny" by voting for the Opposition and added that he was confident they would make the right choice.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional was contesting all

the parliamentary seats because it wanted to be strong in order to help the people.

He said the DAP, in contesting 90 seats, could not hope to be a strong Government even if it was voted into power.

"If you want to make promises to the people and be able to keep your promises... at least contest more seats. There is no point making promises if you know you cannot keep them," he remarked.

Dr Mahathir said the fact that the Barisan Nasional had already won six parliamentary and eight state seats clearly showed that the people supported the Barisan Nasional.

"The Barisan Nasional has proven that it is effective and responsive to their needs," he said.

Dr Mahathir cited as an example the construction of the Langat highway, saying that it was built to make life better for the people in Klang and the surrounding areas.

He said with the new road and other expansion projects, traffic congestion would be eased immensely and in the end it would be the

'Govt has interests of people at heart at heart

always'

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people who benefited.

"Whatever we have done was done with the interests of the people at heart... nothing was done to cause hardship."

Dr Mahathir said the much-criticised privatisation programmes were also being implemented to benefit the people.

"The Government has a stake in all businesses in the country. As a shareholder, we have naturally to co-operate with the private sector.

"The more profit the private sector earns, the more revenue the Government gets. Ultimately, the revenue is spent on development for the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government alone could not afford to build roads and bridges.

He said the Government was now carrying the heavy burden of the economic slowdown and it would have to impose more taxes in order to obtain revenue for development.

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