

PM: Pick effective, strong Govt

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the people to vote into power a Government that is effective and strong to ensure stability and prosperity.

Speaking over the National Network of Radio Malaysia this afternoon, the Barisan Nasional chairman said the coalition had a proven track record, as was evident from the nation's development.

However, he said there was more to be done.

"Malaysia, therefore, needs a Government that is strong, efficient and responsible.

"Barisan Nasional leaders have the integrity and willingness to lead the nation towards stability and prosperity.

"Only a strong Government can administer a developing nation with a multi-racial population like Malaysia with integrity and confidence."

The Prime Minister added that under the Barisan Nasional Government all sectors of the country had developed and progressed.

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The development of the nation was planned carefully and up to now six five-year plans had been launched.

The effect had been all encompassing, he added.

For example, there were now hundreds of schools, tens of colleges and six universities,

more general hospitals, health centres and rural-based clinics, more small and large-scale industries.

The number of poor people had also been reduced while more villages were now receiving basic amenities.

The Barisan Nasional had also introduced the clean, efficient and trustworthy concept in its administration.

"Every weakness had been exposed and steps taken to rectify them. This proves that the Government's intention to champion the cause of the people has indeed been the tradition of the Alliance, then and the Barisan Nasional now.

"The Barisan's slogan

The People's Champion is, therefore, appropriate."

Dr Mahathir said this tradition had also forced the Barisan Nasional Government to take actions which might be unpopular initially but would ultimately benefit the people.

This proves that the Government did not concentrate on the politics of popularity.

The emphasis on long-term effect had resulted in the clock-in-system, work procedure manual, quality control circle, name tag, one-stop centres and assimilation of good values in the administration.

On Malaysia Incorporated, Dr Mahathir explained that the Government's revenue derived from economic activities, most of which were managed by the private sector.

"It is therefore logical for the Government to assist the private sector as it contributes towards increasing the Government's revenue."

In addition, privatisation was introduced to lessen the Government's financial strain, to upgrade efficiency and encourage economic growth.

On Islam, Dr Mahathir said besides assimilating Islamic values into its administration, the Government had also set up the International Islamic University, Islamic Bank and introduced Islamic insurance.

On the economy, he said the Government felt that the industries should be the backbone of the nation's development.

In this respect, it had encouraged the development of large scale industries.

However, attention would continue to be given to rural and urban development and village industries.

Dr Mahathir said the country had also gained international recognition not only for its tough stand on a number of issues, but also its contribution and experience in overcoming a number of problems, including the fight against dadah.