

# PM: Barisan guarantees peace and stability

RAUB, Tues. — The

Prime Minister said today only a Government that could administer the nation fairly could ensure peace and stability.

"Peace cannot be assured merely by increasing the strength of the police and the armed forces as there is no telling how many men will be needed to protect Malaysia's more than 135,000 square miles of land," he said.

"But as long as Malaysians vote in a Government that can administer the nation effectively, peace and stability can be assured," Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said.

"The Government must also be fair in its

dealings with its multiracial society to maintain peace and stability," he said, when opening the Bukit Koman low-cost housing scheme.

The Barisan Nasional and the Alliance before it had always emphasised peace and stability in their election campaigns unlike Pas which is doing it only for this general election, he added.

## Welcome

"The Pas manifesto of 'United towards Peace, Stability and Justice' is, therefore, nothing new."

Dr Mahathir, who was

accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, was welcomed by the Menteri Besar and State Barisan Nasional chairman, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

About 100 Barisan Nasional motorcyclists escorted the Prime Minister, who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman, to the site of the Bukit Koman low-cost housing scheme where he was given a traditional *kompong* and red carpet welcome.

More than 1,000 Barisan Nasional supporters greeted him.

By **SABRY SHARIF**

Dr Mahathir said Pas was not sincere in its pledge to strive for peace, justice and stability.

He cited as an example the Kampung Memali tragedy near Baling last year where four police personnel, in trying to maintain peace and order, were killed together with 14 villagers.

"The truth is, there was peace and stability in Kampong Memali until Pas set up a branch there and influenced the villagers to become criminals when the police wanted to establish peace and order."

The Barisan Nasional chairman also criticised the Pas manifesto which he said was contradic-

tory to the party's constitution which outlined its main objective as setting up an Islamic State.

"But when Pas launched its manifesto recently, there was no mention at all of this objective and Haji Yusof Rawa (the Pas president), in reply to my criticism said I did not know how to interpret the contents of the manifesto."

Dr Mahathir said he wondered how an ordinary voter was going to interpret the manifesto as having a provision for an Islamic State when he himself was unable to do so.

He believed Pas did not include the pledge to set up an Islamic State to avoid losing non-Muslim votes.

The Prime Minister also said Pas' pledge to keep Bahasa Malaysia as the official language of the nation contradicted its earlier stand that all languages would be considered official.

"Pas retracted its earlier pledge as it received a backlash from the Malay, Muslim community. However, its pledge to make Bahasa Malaysia the official language is nothing new as the Barisan Nasional Government has already enshrined it in the Federal Constitution," he said.