

IT'S EITHER PROSPERITY OR CHAOS: MAHATHIR

RAUB, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people must decide whether they want a government which will bring peace and prosperity or one which will bring chaos.

The Prime Minister said that it was difficult to maintain peace in a Malaysian society which comprised people of various races and religions.

The people, thus, had to choose a Government which knew how to rule and ensure peace and stability.

Speaking at the launching of a privatised low-cost housing scheme at Bukit Koman here, Dr Mahathir said only the Barisan Nasional Government was capable of maintaining peace

because all the races in the country were represented in the coalition.

Dr Mahathir said problems were resolved through discussions and not confrontation as advocated by the Opposition.

He also hit out at PAS for allegedly bringing about chaos wherever it extended its influence.

"Wherever PAS is, there will be no justice, peace or prosperity," said Dr Mahathir who cited as an example the Kampung Me-mali incident.

"Before PAS came in, the villagers lived in peace and harmony with each other and with the people of other kampungs," he said.

But when PAS influence spread, the villagers were

taught to isolate themselves from others, label other Muslims infidels and ultimately to kill innocent people, he added.

He also said PAS was trying to hoodwink the people with its manifesto which did not include all the party's aspirations.

PAS, he added, had said that the languages of the various races would be made the official languages and that it would abolish the special rights and privileges of the Malays if it came to power.

However, Dr Mahathir said these were not stated in the party's manifesto. Neither was PAS' stated aim of setting up an Islamic State.

He also criticised DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang for trying to establish a family dynasty in the party by fielding his son, Guan Eng, in the Kota Melaka parliamentary constituency.

He said Mr Lim was the "dictator" in the DAP and Guan Eng was his heir apparent.

Dr Mahathir also said the five-party Opposition Front was disintegrating.

"They are already fighting each other," he added.

In contrast, the spirit of co-operation among the Barisan component parties was genuine and extended even after an election.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Pahang MCA chair-

man Datuk Chan Siang Sun, State Exco members and leaders of the various Barisan component parties.

Later in Kuching, Dr Mahathir said that under the liberal attitude of the Barisan government everyone, and not only the Opposition, could criticise the Government.

He said Barisan component party members were also free to make criticisms and thus help resolve problems facing the various communities.

He also said the BN made efforts to bring development to all the people, irrespective of their ethnic background, reports *Ber-nama*.

However, it was vital for the country to have a strong

government which could concentrate on development efforts, he added when opening the 50km Simunjan-Bukit Punda road in Simunjan, about 100km from Kuching.

He said that for the Government to be strong and stable, it needed a two-third majority in Parliament.

Dr Mahathir said countries with weak governments were unable to concentrate on development out of fear over losing their popularity for undertaking certain measures.

He added that the BN, and the Alliance before it, was able to implement development programmes for the people's benefit without being too concerned over its popularity.