

'Make them realise they are not wanted and won't stand again'

PM: Reject forces of disunity

NSF 30 JUL 1986

KUCHING, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on voters today to reject candidates who represent forces out to destroy the existing political stability by undermining racial harmony.

"They must be rejected outright. They must be made to lose their deposits in the election. Only then will they realise that they are not wanted and will not try again," he said.

"However, should they receive a substantial number of votes, they may be encouraged to continue to sow the seeds of disunity.

"Therefore, the voters must reject them in the interest of the stability of the country," he said at the opening of the newly-completed Simunjan-Bukit Punda road in Simunjan in the First Division.

**By ZAINON AHMAD and
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Earlier, the Prime Minister, who arrived with Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah on a two-day visit to the State, was given a ceremonial welcome at the Kuching International Airport.

He was received by Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, his wife Datin Laila Taib, Government officials and BN component party leaders.

Dr Mahathir said while in the peninsula such forces of disunity were represented by political parties like the DAP and Pas, in Sarawak these forces were backed by a former State leader.

Without mentioning names, Dr Mahathir said it was better for the former leaders to retire peacefully rather than continue interfering in politics.

"I advised him not to start any new party. But he didn't want to listen to me and even wanted to become the Chief

Minister again," added Dr Mahathir, who said he wouldn't name names.

Dr Mahathir said the former leader's time was over.

"If we retire we should do so in peace. Even when I retire I will not interfere because we all have our own style of administering the Government," he added, pointing out that leaders such as former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn and Tun Abdul Razak were fine examples.

He said it was unfortunate that the challenge faced by the BN under the leadership of Datuk Taib started as a result of a family quarrel.

"It is unfortunate that the long-drawn out family feud was not settled within the family but allowed to spill over into the political scene.

"It should not have been allowed to happen as innocent people were forced to take sides."

He said the people must, therefore, reject the candidates put up by the group opposing Datuk Taib in the interest of stability in the State.

It cannot be helped if his own style of leadership is disliked by certain people as no two persons are alike, he said.

Dr Mahathir criticised pro-tem president of the United Sarawak Natives Association (USNA) Haji Wan Habib Syed Mahmud, who is challenging the Barisan Nasional's Haji Bujang Ullis, the Deputy Education Minister, in the Simunjan constituency.

He said Wan Habib, a former Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) vice-president, should have brought his problems to the Barisan Nasional instead of challenging its leadership.

"If he (Wan Habib) did not contest the Samarahan seat, Haji Bujang would have been unopposed as Datuk Abang Abu Bakar and Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud (in their parliamentary constituencies).

"What can he do for the Government? He cannot deliver the goods because he needs the support of the Barisan Nasional," added Dr Mahathir, who hoped the *rakyat* would ensure that the challengers lost their deposits.

He said Sarawak should not allow such politicians to divide the PBB and the Barisan Nasional.

Sarawak was fortunate because under Datuk Taib the State Government had been given a very large development budget due to the need to develop this vast State.

He said peace and stability was of utmost importance because "politics of quarrelling and instigation would only lead to hardship."

He predicted that the Sarawak Barisan Nasional would make a clean sweep of all the 24 seats in the coming election.

Some people felt there was a need for opposition in Parliament so that there will be someone to criticise the Government. But Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional is a liberal Government and had not stopped anyone from criticising it.

"We in the Barisan don't believe in 'yes' men. If you don't agree you can always bring it up and we will consider it," he said.