

# Mahathir steps up

By CHAN THAM SENG

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stepped up his gruelling, cross-country campaign yesterday by reminding voters in Taiping that general election is held for the purpose of forming a Government rather than choosing individual candidates.

As such, it is important that the Barisan Nasional is returned with a majority substantial enough to form the next Government, he added.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, arrived in a helicopter at about 11 am. He was in Sarawak last night.

Addressing a crowd at the Taiping Dewan Bandaraya, Dr Mahathir stressed that only the ruling party can implement development programmes.

"The opposition parties will stay as opposition parties because they have already acknowledged that the Barisan Nasional will rule after the elections," he said.

Urging the people to be on the

guard against the deceptions of the DAP and the PAS-led opposition pact, he said the DAP could not even put up the required number of candidates, let alone achieve their goal of denying the BN of a two-thirds majority.

The Prime Minister remarked that the DAP is nothing but a "sole proprietorship of Lim Kit Siang" who is dreaming of building up his dynasty within the DAP by giving the Kota Melaka candidacy to his son.

Dr Mahathir also likened the DAP to a communist party where the secretary-general, instead of the president, has the absolute power.

Referring to Mr Lim's contest for the Tanjung seat in Penang, the Prime Minister noted that "Mr Lim hates Dr Koh Tsu Koon for his popularity".

Turning on to PAS, Dr Mahathir noted that there exists mutual deceptions and suspicions within the opposition pact led by PAS.

"The PAS election manifesto contradicts its own party constitution

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which clearly envisions the establishment of an Islamic state.

"The CCC which collaborated with PAS as well as members in the opposition pact like SDP, PSRM and NasMa, are all deceived by PAS," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir advised the people not to be deceived by PAS just because of its perceived adherence to Islam and the frequent quoting of verses from the Quran.

"By proclaiming that PAS is a party of God shows that PAS has no fear of God.

"PAS is merely using Islam as a tool to realise its political objectives," Dr Mahathir said.

He remarked that both PAS and DAP are out to fan hatred among the people against the elected Government.

After his address at 12.30 pm, the Prime Minister left Taiping for Penang to continue his campaigning.

*Bernama adds:* In Kuching, Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is confident

## campaign

the BN will obtain a landslide victory in the general election judging from the current support shown by the people.

The Prime Minister said his assessment was based on his campaign tour of several states since nomination day last Thursday.

The majority of the people showed support for the BN Government, he told reporters at Kuching International Airport before leaving for Taiping to continue his election tour of the country.

"The people's support for the BN is now clear and it looks like it will get more than a two-thirds majority," he said.

The BN won six parliamentary and eight state seats uncontested on nomination day.

Dr Mahathir said the BN will win all 24 parliamentary seats in Sarawak if the candidates and their supporters worked hard.

He also stressed the need for unity among the people to ensure continued

support for the BN Government.

"I believe the people of Sarawak will continue to support the BN because of the rapid development it has brought to the state," he said.

The Prime Minister said a big BN victory in Sarawak is vital to ensure continued development.

Such a victory will further strengthen cooperation between the federal and state Governments and there will also be effective Sarawak representation in Parliament and the federal Cabinet, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the DAP and PAS had a secret electoral pact in Peninsular Malaysia to deny victory to BN candidates.

He felt that the pact will not work because the leaders of the two parties frequently broke their promise.

The Prime Minister and his wife were seen off by Sarawak chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife Datin Patinggi Laila and other state dignitaries.