

DR M ADVISES KELANTAN VOTERS

Think long-term

By HARDEV KAUR

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BARISAN Nasional (BN) chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has again advised the people to vote for the party and not the individual when they go to the polls this weekend.

After meeting BN leaders and workers in Kota Baru yesterday, he urged the voters to think of long-term benefits rather than short-term gains.

He warned the people that if they vote for the individual, without taking into account the party, there is a danger of the representatives not being able to serve them.

In an oblique reference to the time when Kelantan was under PAS rule in the past, he said the Barisan does not want

to be the opposition again.

"Eighteen years in the opposition is enough for us," he said.

He expressed confidence that the coalition will be able to obtain at least a two-thirds majority in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said only with strong representation will the BN be able to serve the people. This has always been the BN's aspiration, to serve the people and not to seek power for itself.

The Prime Minister reminded the candidates not to forget their constituents after they have won but to serve them. They should not only seek their assistance once in five years when their votes are needed.

Later, he told the Kota Baru

Chinese Business Chamber he will look into the problems faced by the Chinese community in Kelantan.

He said he is aware that they face some problems regarding land. While the Chinese in Kelantan can buy land in the State there are still some teething problems.

In "making an open promise" to look into their problem Dr Mahathir said he does not make empty promises as some of the opposition parties do.

He added that the BN does not promise all kinds of things, unlike PAS which knows that it will not be able to form the Government and, therefore, will not have to live up to the promises. But the BN has to be careful and only pro-

mises what it can deliver.

Referring to the various appeals from the Chinese community in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said that these will be looked into but he cannot promise them anything now as the issues will first have to be considered.

The Prime Minister said the future of the Chinese in Kelantan is closely intertwined with that of the Malays. They (the Chinese) had settled in the State for years and even speak "a foreign language which I do not understand — local Malay."

Dr Mahathir said there had been accusations that the Government is not fair in its allocation of funds and that more had been channeled to the rural areas. He told the

gathering that the Government had built the Penang bridge which benefited the urban people.

Similarly the Government had allocated funds for developments in the major towns like Kuala Lumpur and this is definitely for the benefit of those in the urban areas.

He said the allocation of funds for development is a tricky affair but the Government has tried to be fair to all.

Earlier, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Yaacob said he is confident that the BN will make a clean sweep of the State. He admitted that earlier there were some areas that "appeared to be difficult" but the problems have now been resolved.