

# BN Govt has ensured rapid progress for nation: PM

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KUCHING, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the stability brought about by the Barisan Nasional Government has ensured rapid socio-economic development in the nation.

"This stability has also created a suitable climate to ensure harmony and unity among the various communities in the country," he said in a message contained in the Barisan Nasional manifesto released here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said all programmes and development strategies implemented by the BN Government were aimed at further raising the living standard of the people and ensuring a more comfortable lifestyle for them, irrespective of their origin, race or religion.

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In this context, he said, priority was always given to rural areas so that facilities available in the urban areas would also be enjoyed by those in the rural and interior areas.

In Sarawak, he said, the BN Government of Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud had brought rapid development to the State and had improved the infrastructure facilities, apart from attracting more investors to the State despite the economic slowdown.

These efforts had provided more employment opportunities to the local people in all sectors, reflecting the State Government leadership's excellent record.

All communities in the State were jointly reaping the fruits of development, Dr Mahathir said.

On the State election, Dr Mahathir was confident that voters would show wisdom and maturity by re-electing the Barisan Nasional Government which always had the interest of the people and State at heart.

"This is vital to ensure continued progress, stability and unity," he said.

Meanwhile, Datuk Patinggi Taib in his message in the manifesto said that as part of its development efforts, the State Government had initiated major socio-economic projects such as the multi-million ringgit Integrated Agricultural Development Programme in the Kalaka-Saribas area and Samarahan and the Felda oil palm scheme.

The State Government was also planning and encouraging various heavy and light industry projects, particularly in the timber and petro-chemical fields.

It had also improved tourist development and infrastructure facilities throughout the State, he said.

Datuk Patinggi Taib, who is State BN chairman, said these efforts reflected the BN Government's sincerity in implementing its politics of development concept.

He also said \$2.608 billion was allocated for the State's development under the Third Malaysia Plan and \$6.3 billion under the present Fifth Malaysia Plan.

The Chief Minister also said the State Government was determined to maintain investors' confidence in the State as the basis for its rapid development.

Datuk Patinggi Taib launched the BN manifesto at the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) office in Jalan Satok here tonight. -- Bernama