

Barisan still the best, says Dr Mahathir

PENANG, Sat. -The Barisan Nasional concept of non-confrontational politics and co-operation is still the best choice for Malaysians, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said the coalition party set-up in 1969 believed in compromise, negotiations and faith in its leaders to solve problems especially sensitive issues such as religion and education.

"BN component parties do not depend on one single party but on the coalition and this is proven in past by-elections where they work together to ensure mutual victories," said the Prime Minister at the formation of Malaysia rally.

He said the coalition is not perfect as its members represents various ethnic groups but there is no infighting as they uphold the BN concept.

"What is important is the willingness to negotiate as we do not believe in using the Press or hot-tempered people to solve our problems."

Halfway through his speech, the Prime Minister stopped and asked those

present — youths from BN component parties and youth organisations — to mix freely and not restrict themselves to one particular group.

"It only takes a bit of compromise on our part to show that despite the various 'colours' we can still work together and this is what the BN reflects."

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chief, described the alliance of *Semangat* 46, Pas and DAP to form the yet-to-be-registered coalition, Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) as a dream.

"How can they form a Government when one of them wants to set up an extremist Islamic State and the other a chauvinistic secular State."

"The formation of APU will only lead to political instability and chaos for the whole country," he added.

Earlier, BN youth leader Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak called on the Government to take action against foreign magazines who were only interested in tarnishing the image of the country and its leaders.