

PM WARNS SABAH PARTIES

7 JUN 1990

By Wong ~~Hum~~ Wei

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned Sabah political parties today against fanning state parochialistic and anti-federal sentiments.

The Prime Minister said these parties should stop creating ill-feelings between Malaysians in Sabah and the peninsula.

"Their action is unhealthy as it will create rifts and suspicions among the people," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that all Malaysians should consider themselves not as citizens of a particular state but as Malaysians.

Dr Mahathir also said it was unfair for certain parties to allege that Sabah had been left out of the mainstream of development.

"You have to go there and

see for yourself and compare (Sabah) with Kelantan, Perlis or Kedah, see which state has more buildings!" he told newsmen after chairing a pre-council meeting of Barisan Nasional MPs at Parliament House.

Dr Mahathir was replying to questions from newsmen about the Sabah election campaign where certain political leaders had made anti-federal remarks.

Berjaya president Datuk Harris Salleh, for example, had alleged that "Sabah and Sarawak are being completely ignored" in the various sectors of development.

The former Chief Minister, who is using the slogan *Sabah for Sabahans* in the election campaign, also claimed that "economic development in these two states is almost zero."

Akar has also promised to create a state education ministry to "complement" the services of the federal ministry if

it wins the July 16-17 polls.

The Parti Rakyat Sabah (PRS), led by former federal minister Datuk Dr James Ongkili, had alleged that Sabahans had been discriminated in the appointment to top government posts, particularly in the police and Immigration departments.

On the PRS decision to work with Parti Semangat 46, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the people to decide whether they wanted "politicians with no principles" to lead them.

He also urged the people to be wary of politicians who "hop from one party to another like a frog or a grasshopper."

"We should not be angry if tomorrow we have a government that has no direction (one) with a mentality of a grasshopper, hopping here and there over a trivial matter."

Dr Mahathir said the country had achieved good economic growth and had become even more successful than certain developed countries because it had had a good government

since independence.

The people, he said, could see for themselves the level of development the country had attained.

On the Kijal and Kuala Linggi state elections, Dr Mahathir said he was confident of a Barisan victory.

"We will make the usual (election) preparations. We still have a lot of time to choose our candidates," he added.

Asked whether it would be a waste of money to have the by-elections with the general election approaching, Dr Mahathir replied: "The laws require us to have the by-elections. The question of whether money is being wasted is a separate matter."

The Prime Minister said that the Government could not be expected to hold the general election merely to save money that would be spent on conducting the two by-elections.

The Kuala Linggi by-election is set for July 29 and Kijal Aug 1.