

# Stability the theme of Barisan's manifesto

By Wong Chun Wal

SEPANG, Sun. — The Barisan Nasional manifesto for the general election will stress the need to maintain political stability, economic development and to check politicking, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Barisan chairman said the

manifesto would be ready soon.

"Some final touches are still needed," he said, adding that the drafting committee, headed by his deputy Abdul Ghafar Baba, had met a few times to thrash out the details.

The people should realise that the Opposition was not in a position to maintain stability, he told newsmen after address-

ing a gathering of several thousand at Pantai Bagan Lalang here.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and other Barisan leaders.

The visit was part of Dr Mahathir's nationwide pre-election tour to meet

the people and Umno leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the manifesto need not be used to counter the *Buku 100 Isu* (Book of 100 issues) which he said Semangat 46 was planning to use in the election campaign.

"There are no 100 issues. The biggest issue is their existence. If they do not exist, then there is no issue," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy with the response he had received towards his tour so far.

He said the party members appeared to be in high spirits and ready to face the general election.

"From the feedback, we believe the Barisan can be assured of a clear victory," he said, but added that he still wanted to see further improvement in the Barisan election machinery.

Dr Mahathir, whose tour started on June 17, has so far visited the Federal Territory, Negri Sembilan, Terengganu, Perlis, Penang and Pahang.

On the Government's to invite a team of

wealth countries to oversee the elections, Dr Mahathir said the Government had so far only contacted the Commonwealth secretariat.

"The terms of reference and the team's responsibilities have not been drawn up yet. No official invitation has been extended either," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir said the Government was prepared to meet leaders from the opposition parties to hear their views on the role of the observers, but he hoped they would not impose "unnecessary conditions."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir advised the people not to choose elected representatives just because they liked them even though they could not bring development.

He said the people should choose government-backed elected representatives because only they could bring development to them.

As an example, he said, the ability of DAP's Bukit Bintang MP Lee Lam Thye to help his constituents was due to the co-op-

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eration of the Government.

"Mr Lee is close to the Government and officers, but (Opposition Leader) Lim Kit Siang would not be able to do the same," he said.

"The election is not for the people to elect those whom they like ... those who look after them when they are ill, who help them wash the plates after a feast," he quipped.

Dr Mahathir said the election was to enable the formation of a government, which was why a strong government was necessary.

"It will not be enough just electing people whom we like because one person alone cannot form the government," he added.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to ensure a landslide victory for Barisan to enable the Government to continue serving them.

He also said that the good relationship be-

tween state and the Federal Government was important.

On the opposition, he urged the people to examine the background of the Parti Semangat 46 leaders.

He said the Semangat leaders, including their president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, had been running down the Government because they were frustrated by their inability to capture the Umno leadership.

"They lost in the party elections and then they destroyed Umno ... after that they said they wanted to revive Umno but now they have formed a new party," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had extended the olive branch to Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah by offering to make him a minister, but he was more interested in becoming Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said leaders who had in the past

criticised PAS and had even taken part in toppling the PAS government in Kelantan were now praising PAS leaders.

"PAS has also now exchanged greetings with Lim Kit Siang and (DAP national chairman) Chen Man Hin. In fact, DAP leaders have now even learnt the word *mukhtar* (assembly)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no way the three opposition parties could work together effectively as they shared different ideologies and platforms.

He also said that although Malaysia was a multiracial country, the people had enjoyed peace and stability unlike other countries where chaos had become a way of life.

He said the people had sometimes taken the stability and peace in the country for granted.

Dr Mahathir also opened a \$500,000 resort at Bagan Lalang (See Page 5).