

# PM: WE NEED TWO-THIRDS TO RULE PEACEFULLY

(P)

5 23 7.90

MUAR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Barisan Nasional wants a strong Government to prevent a situation that can be exploited by opportunists.

"If we win by one or two seats, we will constantly be threatened by crossovers to the opposition. The opportunists will use the occasion to get what they want," Dr Mahathir told a Barisan gathering here yesterday.

With a two-thirds majority, the Barisan would be free of such threats and could concentrate on development, the Prime Minister added.

He said the Barisan was not seeking a two-thirds majority in Parliament to amend the Constitution as some opposition members were claiming.

"We need a two-thirds majority so that we can have a strong government," the Barisan chairman added.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan was not looking to win all the seats, adding that "losing some seats will ensure that we retain perspective of things."

He believed that the opposition parties would betray one another after the general election.

"The so-called pact among the opposition parties is a lie ... they are trying to pull wool over the people's eyes by publicly saying that they are united while secretly not trusting their partners."

"The people should not trust leaders who do not trust their partners," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said that Semangat 46 was being led by a "disappointed" person who was trying to destroy Malay unity because he could not get what he wanted.

"This person wanted desperately to become (Umno) president and Prime Minister. but he

could not. Those days he was part of us, involved in making all the decisions.

"But today, he is saying that what we are doing is not right and that we (Umno) are not the same.

"Is this because he is not (Umno) president?" Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said this person should have been patient because "I cannot be president forever."

He likened the opposition leader to one who burnt the mosquito net "kerana marahkan nyamuk (because he was angry with the mosquito)."

He said that Johor would continue to be a stronghold of the Barisan and Umno, adding that the coalition could achieve 100 per cent victory in the state.

He said the British had not been able to split the Johor Malays, and the Semangat leader would find it an impossible task.