

Dr M: BN improved most of urban areas

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MALACCA, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said urban voters should take a deep look at their political affiliation with the opposition parties, emphasising that most of the development work in urban areas were those done by the Barisan Nasional Government.

The Prime Minister said the BN Government has given urban voters as much development and prosperity as possible all these years. Therefore, they should take a fresh look at what the BN Government has to offer for themselves, their dependents and their children.

Dr Mahathir said this at a huge meet-the-rakyat session at the Malacca Exposition Centre at Ayer Keroh, several kilometres from the town centre.

He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik, MCA president and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president and Minister of Energy, Posts and Telecommunications, Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu, Gerakan President and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yeik, Sarawak Chief Minister, Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and several State dignitaries.

The Prime Minister, who arrived this morning by bus, was given a rousing traditional welcome at the exposition centre. He was mobbed by eager well-

wishers who wanted to shake his hands, while others were pleased just to catch a glimpse of the national leader.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the next general election could very well be the end of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's political career, and that of Parti Semangat 46 as well.

He said the Opposition parties were not united, as seen by their inability to work together. Dr Mahathir said this would suggest that they would not be the right to govern the country.

The Prime Minister said the Government's announcement in recent weeks, such as the 50 per cent increase in padi subsidy, was neither an election gimmick nor an attempt by the Government to fish for votes. "The Government was just doing its job," Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir launched the Seri Siantan flats at Bukit Baru. He said Malacca used to be a sleepy hallow, but this had changed following intense and steady industrialisation by the Government.

He reminded the people to lead a clean life, and this should be reflected in their home environment. Personal hygiene and taking care of the environment should be an automatic responsibility of everyone, he said.

Dr Mahathir's first assignment in Malacca was a closed-door meeting with Malacca BN leaders at the Chief Minister's residence. At the meeting, Dr Mahathir informed Malacca BN of the present political scenarios in the country and urged party workers

and supporters to work hard all the time.

For the first time in the course of the Prime Minister's visit in the peninsular, the Sarawak Chief Minister, Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud also gave a speech.

Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib warned that the Government's policy of equality for all Malaysians will be a thing of the past if politicians greedy for power were allowed to rule the country.

He said this policy of fairness for all Malaysians in the distribution of the country's wealth had always ensured equal development in all the States including those in east Malaysia.

"It is this policy of equa-

lity for everyone that attracted Sarawak to become a part of Malaysia," he told the gathering.

Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib, who is also President of the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak (PBB), however, cautioned that this policy of co-operation and consideration would not continue if people who opposed these values and were only greedy for power were elected to Government.

"This policy can only be nurtured and maintained by someone who has a strong sense of responsibility to the people, the nation, race and religion. If this policy is destroyed, we will also be destroyed.

"Therefore, we must brace ourselves to fight anything to make sure that

this policy is maintained. And the BN is the only party which can ensure the continuation of this policy," he added.

He stressed that despite the misunderstandings they had, members of the BN did not allow any ill-feeling to overcome them and work against the interest of the people or the nation.

In his address, Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik dubbed Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as "the warrior of chaos", adding that the country could not afford to have leaders like him.

He said it was not the tradition of Malaysians to support opposition parties which often resorted to violence to get their way.