

Co-operation in Barisan vital

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KOTA KINABALU, Sat. — Sabah leaders have been able to voice the hopes and aspirations of the people in the State at the Federal level because of the Barisan Nasional, the Prime Minister said today.

Both the State and Federal Governments belonged to the same coalition, which made close relations possible, added Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir said the feelings and views of the people of Sabah could also be heard in Kuala Lumpur because these State leaders were also Federal leaders through the BN.

"This is why the participation of the PBS and Usno is meaningful in the BN.

"Relations between parties is most important for the voices of the PBS and Usno to be heard. In the BN, co-operation is most important," he said.

could be solved through consultations.

Dr Mahathir noted there was no Federal Government now. The Barisan Nasional was only a caretaker Government, he said.

"When the Barisan Nasional wins this election on Oct 21 and forms the next Government, this close co-operation can be established again with the State Government because we are in the same party.

"Then, we can discuss with the Sabah Government," he said.

He expressed confidence the BN would win by a two-thirds majority. This large majority was important, he said, as the country needed a Government which could not be brought down by several MPs switching sides like in some other countries.

In Sabah, he wanted the BN to make a clean sweep of the 20 seats. The PBS is contesting 14 seats and Usno six.

Earlier, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan asked the Federal Government to reconsider the State Government's request for its own radio and television station and an increase in oil royalty.

He said it was vital for Sabah to have its own radio and television sta-

Oil royalties

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a goodwill gathering at the municipal padang here as part of his one-day visit to the State.

In urging PBS and Usno members to support candidates from either party in the general election, he said opposition and independent candidates should be rejected. The Opposition, particularly the DAP, could never form the Government because it had not fielded enough candidates.

As for Independents, some might harbour hopes of joining the BN if they win but the ruling coalition would not accept them. "These Independents can continue dreaming," he said to cheers from the 3,000-strong crowd.

He touched on the futility of a State Government which did not see eye-to-eye with the Federal Government.

He cited the example of the Gerakan which captured Penang in the 1969 general election. Dr Lim Chong Eu could form the State Government but joined the then Alliance after only a few days because he realised the State Government had to cooperate with the Federal Government.

On the Sabah Government's requests for a television station and more royalties from oil production for the State, he said such matters

tion, considering the State's size and diversity of ethnic groups.

"Sabah needs to have its own radio and television station so that Government policies and objectives could be disseminated effectively to the multi-racial society of the State," he said.

On the oil royalty, he said it should be increased as the State's timber resources were being depleted.

"We need more funds to further develop the State as we are still lagging behind other States in Malaysia."

He hoped the Federal Government would allocate more development funds to Sabah.

He said more funds were needed to improve the road network and build schools, hospitals and fire stations.

He urged the Federal Government to approve the State Government's request to turn an area in Kudat into a free trade zone and lower electricity tariffs in the State.

Datuk Seri Pairin, who is also State BN chairman, said understanding between PBS and Usno supporters was vital for a BN victory. Candidates fielded by the DAP must be rejected as they had done nothing for the State.

The Chief Minister called on the people to give BN candidates in the DAP-held areas of Gaya, Tawau, Sandakan and Tanjung Aru a chance to voice the people's problems in Parliament.