

PM: RETURN CHONG EU WITH BIG MAJORITY

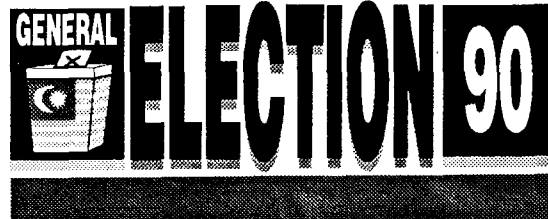
PENANG, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged urban voters today to give an overwhelming majority to Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu to ensure a better future for Penang.

He said the state had prospered and changed tremendously under the leadership of Dr Lim.

"For more than 20 years Dr Lim has devoted his life to the development of Penang, both in the industrial and business sectors. He deserves to win without contest," he said at a ceramah at the Chinese Town Hall here after meeting community leaders.

He said that under Dr Lim, Penang had become a famous tourist resort and one of the largest electronics manufacturing centres in the country.

"The State Government has enjoyed such success because of Dr Lim's vision and his close rela-



tionship with the various Barisan component parties and the Federal Government," Dr Mahathir said.

"Businessmen and traders have benefited so much from the tourist industry which has also generated employment for youths."

Dr Mahathir said the development of Penang was a clear indication of the Barisan's good record.

With Dr Lim as Chief Minister, the State would enjoy more development as more foreign companies would invest in Penang.

"You have nothing to lose but plenty to gain

from voting for Barisan," he said.

"I am aware that urban voters here are sympathetic towards the opposition. Please do not vote the party that makes the most noise but the one that has served and taken care of your community."

"The opposition does not have any track record of serving the public."

He said it was not right for urban voters to reject the Government all the time even though the Government had taken care of and developed opposition constituencies.

"We have taken good care of you and your support for us must continue. We are moderates, not ex-

tremists. One good turn deserves another," he added.

Dr Mahathir said DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang had no respect for Dr Lim or Penangites.

"Not content with challenging an elder statesman, he threatens the people here by forcing them to make a choice between the opposition and Dr Lim."

"What can Kit Siang or the DAP do? He is nothing compared to Dr Lim. He is a dictator while the other DAP leaders, like Mr Karpal Singh, are qualified book throwers during State Assemblies."

Earlier, speaking at the opening of the Petani Road Community Hall, Dr Mahathir said no one would respect the Government if the Barisan Nasional won with only a small majority.

"This is a fact which we have to accept. We want a strong Government and if the majority is too small, then the administration

will be weak and ineffective," he said.

Dr Mahathir said a weak Government would be disrupted by party crossovers as individuals and opposition parties fought to gain more power.

"We want all Barisan candidates to win with big majorities to determine a strong and stable government. Urban voters must support those who have served their areas," he said.

"The Barisan Government has served the people faithfully all these years. It has ensured political stability, peace among the various communities and a pace of development that even other Third World countries are envious of."

"Although there have been differences between the various Barisan component parties, we have always been able to discuss and work things out."

"The opposition has not achieved anything. They

are the provocateurs who will twist situations and issues to their benefit."

Dr Mahathir later held a closed-door meeting with Barisan component party leaders at Komtar.

After Friday prayers at the Sungai Tiram mosque in Bayan Lepas, Dr Mahathir warned that the political power of the Malays would be weakened if they did not stop their infighting.

He said although the Malays had held the reins of government for a long time, their political power would be eroded if they kept on fighting.

"The 54 per cent of Muslims in the country are now divided. Some of them are challenging us," he said.

He said only the Malays themselves could decide their own fate come polling day on Sunday.

"Either we are returned to become the backbone of the government or be reduced to a small and weak group," he added.