

CNS2885

R CE 12 09 00230 EC564

aae tbe

SABAH AT LOSING END WITHOUT FEDERAL SUPPORT: PM

Mahathir Sabah

bm

KOTA BELUD, Sept 12 (Bernama) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Sabah state government preferred to quarrel with the federal government than make sincere efforts to develop the state.

Although Sabah had achieved much progress since its independence within Malaysia, a lot more had to be done to bring its progress to the level of other states, he told a gathering in Kota Belud, 85 km from Kota Kinabalu.

He said the state had big potential for development but the state government did not make use of the opportunity because it was only striving for the interests of its leaders.

The prime minister said progress in development could only be achieved through dedication and hard work and Sabah was left behind because its government does not pay full attention to development.

He said that so long as the state government could not work closely with the federal government, development and progress in the state would be hampered.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno expanded to the state purely to pave the way for the people to consolidate their efforts because the PBS' withdrawal from the Barisan Nasional had cut off the necessary communication and cooperation. more

12/09/19 40MST

CNS2891

R CE 12 09 00163 EC565

aae tbe

Mahathir Sabah 2 Kota Belud

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno entered Sabah not to colonise the state but to save the Bumiputeras who had been disunited and isolated from progress.

He said Umno was not greedy. 'If we are greedy, Umno in the peninsula can contest 98 seats in the Dewan Rakyat and win all of them because they are in Malay majority areas,' he said.

'But we did not do that as we want to share power with other partners of the Barisan Nasional and strive for all communities,' he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hoped that Umno Sabah would adopt the same spirit and work closely with other BN component parties like Akar and LDP.

He was confident that in the next state election, the Barisan Nasional would be able to recapture the state and bring Sabah back into the mainstream of development. more

12/09/19 44MST

CNS2910

R CE 12 00 00191 EC566

aae tbe

Mahathir Sabah 3 Kota Belud

The Prime Minister said that in Umno there was no place for leaders who used their power to champion their own interest or that of their own groups.

He said his ambition was to make Malaysia a developed nation respected by other countries.

+I want Malaysia to progress, and its people united and prosperous,+ he added.

He said he hoped that the Bumiputeras in Sabah would give their solid support to Umno and that the other communities would cooperate with Umno.

The Prime Minister was awarded the title of +Wira Nusa Raya+ by the Sabah people. Deputy head of Sabah Umno Liaison Committee Tun Datu Haji Mustapha Datu Harun presented the award.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah later went to the USIA building, about one km away, to unveil a plaque to commemorate Umno's entry into Sabah.

Also present were Umno Secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Minister for Land and Cooperative Development Tan Sri Haji Sakaran Dandai and other dignitaries. more

♥12/00/20 06MST

CNS2916

R CE 12 00 00118 EC567

aae tbe

Mahathir Sabah 4 (last) Kota Belud

Tun Datu Mustapha, in his speech earlier, said Umno's victory in the Usukan by election marked the advent of a new era in the state.

He said the response of the Sabah people towards Umno was very encouraging. The party now had 143,000 members and the number was expected to increase to 200,000 soon.

Tun Mustapha said the award of the +Wira Nusa Raya+ title to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was a sincere gesture from the people of Sabah.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah left for Miri, Sarawak, this afternoon. Bernama

♥12/00/20 08MST