

Dr M: PBS must stop bickering

By K.P. Waran

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. Sabah's development pace can be intensified if the PBS-led State Government "stops fighting" and co-operates fully with the Federal Government in implementing development projects, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister attributed the slow progress of development projects in the State to the unco-operative attitude of the PBS Government.

Speaking to a large crowd at the Kota Belud town field, about 100km from here, he said if a more co-operative State Government was installed in Sabah it would be better for the State and the people.

"There is much scope for development in the State. The State can be developed to be on par with other

States in Peninsular Malaysia.

"To bring about progress to the people it would be better to have a State Government which concentrated on ensuring the best for its people and the State instead of constantly bickering with the Federal Government.

"The present State Government left the ruling coalition in a huff just before the Federal elections ... it was like a stab in the back. This is the reason why Umno came to the State."

He said Umno's aim of coming to Sabah was to unify the Bumiputeras and to work with other coalition partners to bring about progress for the State.

Speaking at a Press conference later, Dr Mahathir said Umno, together with the Liberal Democratic Party, Akar and other members of the Barisan Nasional,

hoped to form the next State Government.

Dr Mahathir later unveiled a memorial to mark Umno's first victory in Sabah.

The Prime Minister had arrived by helicopter from the State capital and was taken in a procession through town in a gaily-decorated float in the shape of a boat.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Information Minister and Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief Tun Mustapha Datu Harun and Umno Wanita deputy head Datuk Napsiah Omar.

Tun Mustapha then honoured Dr Mahathir with the "Wira Nusaraya" title for his contribution to the development of Sabah.