

Take hint from Kelantan and Sabah, says Prime Minister

KUCHING, Fri. — The people of Sarawak were advised to take the cue from Kelantan and Sabah, two states facing stagnated development after electing Opposition parties to power.

In making the call Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people would be the eventual loser if they chose a State Government which could not co-operate with the Federal Government.

"I hope you will remember this when you go to the polls in two weeks," Dr Mahathir told a gathering at Betong, about 300km from here

Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to develop Sarawak to be on par with other States in Peninsular Malaysia.

He added that through the efforts of the present State Government many infrastructural projects have been implemented and were being carried in the State.

He said the present State Government was also committed to upgrading the living standards of the people of Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir arrived by helicopter to the small town of Betong to open a Vocational School. He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha.

They were welcomed by deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Alfred Jabu who is also the State Assemblyman for Layar where Betong town is situated.

Commending the people of Sarawak for their handicraft work, the Prime Minister said the time has come for them to progress to repairing motor vehicles, engines and modern gadgetry.

With the opening of the vocational school more students can learn skilled work which will lay the foundation for youths to face the industrialised environment of the year 2020, he said.

Last night in Miri, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be more dedicated to achieve the Vision 2020.

At a community dinner at

the Dewan Suarah Civic Centre, Dr Mahathir said: "We all work for our children and grandchildren. That is what we are here for. We cannot always work for ourselves, we must work for others."

Dr Mahathir was also pleased with the rapid development in Sarawak and attributed this to the State's oil and timber resources.

He said even though Miri was historically known to be the first oil producing centre in the world about 100 years ago, little was done by the early colonisers.

"Since Sarawak became part of Malaysia, it has been given allocations which together with revenue from oil and timber has developed the State into what it is today."

Dr Mahathir said he was also pleased with the State's rapid progress over the past 10 years.

Dr Mahathir was also happy that revenue was wisely spent on the rakyat. He cited the Civic Centre as an example of how the Government helped in social development programmes.