

# Dr M: BN can develop Sabah faster

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Sabah will undergo a more rapid development and progress if it was under the Barisan Nasional Government.

He said with a BN Government in Sabah and the support of the BN Federal Government the State would be developed more rapidly for the benefit of all its people.

"Not only will the *taukeh* be able to derive the benefits but also all the people irrespective of race and occupation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was not boasting when saying that as it was a fact of life.

"If we can prove that we can still prosper despite the world experiencing a slow-

down we can certainly develop Sabah," he said.

However, he said the Federal Government would not extend any assistance to the ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) as it was always at loggerheads with the Government.

The Prime Minister was speaking when opening the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) First General Assembly at the Kian Kok Secondary School in Jalan Tuaran today. Also present were Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun.

He said Sabah used to be the, richest State in Malay-

sia but it was no longer so now, not because there was a lack of investment opportunities but more due to the investors' lack of confidence in the State Government.

He said even during Visit Malaysia Year, Sabah had failed to promote the State as an exciting tourist destination although it had a lot of tourist products to be developed, much to the disappointment of traders and taxi drivers who could have made a roaring business from such a promotion.

During that year, there was a 54 per cent increase of tourists into the country, said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir also said that continued peace and harmony could be maintained in this multi-racial and multi-

religious country because of the BN concept of power sharing and providing meaningful participation by all the races.

"We are a liberal party and not shallow thinking or narrow in outlook."

On Umno, he said it was not power crazy and was willing to share with other parties to rule the country although it could make it on its own.

Earlier, LDP president Chong Kah Kiat had called on the people who had given their mandate to the PBS to withdraw their support as after seven long years of its rule, the PBS Government had been preoccupied only with racial domination leading to blatant corruption, nepotism and arrogance.