

PM: Opposition brings chaos

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By ZULKIFLI TALIB
and LEE KAR YEAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will be wrought with political tension and zero economic development if it were ruled by the Opposition, Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said Sabah and Kelantan were clear examples where relations between the various races were at the lowest.

"If the Federal Government's jurisdiction had not in-

cluded security matters, there would probably have been chaos in the two states today," he said when opening the Gerakan's 22nd general assembly here.

Dr Mahathir said that apart from PBS in Sabah and PAS in Kelantan, other opposition parties have exposed their "stripes" by the way the parties were being managed.

"Democracy does not exist and no leadership change is permitted. Their policies side only one race while they always play on racial senti-

ments.

Apart from this, they also have no qualms about co-operating with foreigners to tarnish the image of the country.

If the Opposition comes to power, the peace and economic development that we have achieved will be lost," he said.

Dr Mahathir also urged members of Barisan component parties to be sensitive and aware of the changes taking place outside their parties.

He said that this was important to ensure that the parties' objectives were always in line

with that of Barisan.

"Party members must ensure that only broad-minded, open and visionary leaders who are aware of the constraints found in a multi-racial society are elected," he said.

In this respect, there were many lessons to be learnt from the defection of PBS and Usno, whose leaders had only personal interests in mind, Dr Mahathir said.

"Their presence in Barisan weakened the coalition to a point that its members were constantly looking behind be-

cause they were never sure when they would be stabbed in the back," he said, adding that the departure of the two Sabah parties was a blessing for Barisan.

Today, he said the Barisan approach was widely acknowledged, even among western democratic countries, as a workable concept that promoted multi-racial co-operation.

Dr Mahathir also pointed out that ideologies and democracy should be used for the benefit of its followers and not otherwise.