

CNS9613

U GE 30-05 00202 EA424

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Mahathir-pledge

MAHATHIR PLEDGES TO MAKE SABAH RICHEST STATE AGAIN

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KOTA KINABALU, May 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed today gave the undertaking that the federal government would make Sabah the richest state in Malaysia again if the Barisan Nasional was returned to power there.

The prime minister said the BN government would administer Sabah into a developed state, just like it had brought development and wealth to the country.

"This is the Barisan Nasional promise. Just like we brought development to Malaysia, the BN will ensure that Sabah became developed again," he said when opening the second general assembly of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at the Sekolah Menengah Kian Kok hall in Jalan Tuaran, here.

The LDP is a BN component in Sabah, along with Umno, Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) and the MCA.

Acknowledging that Sabah had wealth, Dr Mahathir said the state needed an effective administration in place of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) which he said could not deliver.

Sabah, which has about 1.7 million people of various races, is rich in timber and petroleum. -- more

MOK MGN

▼30/05/14-19MST

CNS9614

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Mahathir-pledge 2 Kota Kinabalu

The prime minister said the BN would not make empty promises.

"This is our pledge which we make openly. All of you are the witnesses. We do not make promises for fun. This is not a political pledge. We will fulfill (the promise)," he said to applause from the 1,500 delegates.

Dr Mahathir urged the people of Sabah to support the BN component parties in the state at every by-election and election to enable the BN fulfill its pledge.

He said that when the BN administered Sabah, it would deliver the best for the state.

He also said that the federal government would ensure that the state government administered by the BN received adequate assistance for development. -- more

MOK MGN

▼30/05/14-29MST

CNS9618

U GE 30-05 00157 EA426

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Mahathir-pledge 3 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said the BN government fulfilled its pledges, and this was evident from the success the country had achieved.

"We always fulfill our pledges. We pledged to bring development to Malaysia, and now the world respects us as a developed country. We pledged to transform Malaysia from a producer of commodities into an industrialised country, and now 69 per cent of the country's exports are manufactured goods.

"When we planned to produce a car, many laughed (at the idea) and some made jokes about the bullock carts of Melaka. But the bullock carts are selling well in England," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government would be unable to fulfill its pledges if the administration of the state remained unchanged.

He said Sabah had the potential to develop just like the other states.

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MOK MGN

▼30/05/14-40MST

CNS9624

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Mahathir-pledge 4 Kota Kinabalu

"If the BN administers (the state), I am confident Sabah will see intensive growth and become a leading commercial centre," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Sabah should have been the richest state in Malaysia because it had resources.

In fact, he said, the state had once been regarded as rich, with the people being lavish with their spending compared to those in the peninsula.

Unfortunately, he said, after the PBS came to power, not only was the state no longer rich, the people had to go to Sarawak and the peninsula in search of jobs.

"I recall the people of Sabah carrying their money in bags. They spent RM1 on a cup of coffee and did not take the change after paying RM10," he said, adding that people from the peninsula stood with mouth gaping.

He also said that timber workers in Sandakan were also lavish in their spending previously, and that traders had an easy time and the economy developed. -- more

MOK MGN

▼30/05/14-59MST

CNS9637

U GE 30-05 00168 EA428

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Mahathir-pledge 5 Kota Kinabalu

The prime minister said the slogan "Sabah for Sabahans" promoted by PBS leaders was for the political interest particularly of Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, his family and friends.

He said the PBS attempted to incite the people into hating the federal government and loving Sabah but asked why it allowed Sabah to lag in development.

He said that while the other states moved ahead, Kelantan and Sabah lagged behind.

On the PBS-Usno coalition government, Dr Mahathir said Pairin was able to disrupt unity in Usno by offering posts and salary increases to a small group of Usno leaders.

He said political struggle must be based on principles and love for the country and state.

"We also love Sabah because it is a part of Malaysia. It is not the monology of the Sabah people alone. People in the peninsula also love Sabah.

-- more

MOK MGN

▼30/05/15-35MST

CNS9644

U GE 30-05 00149 EA429

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Mahathir-pledge 6 Kota Kinabalu

"We struggle to uphold a government which is able to serve the people and country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that the people of Sabah would not be parochial in their outlook because he added that "if we say we are Malaysians, we will be respected throughout the world".

"Sabah will continue to be for the Sabahans. Malaysia is also for Malaysians, including Sabahans," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the state government's prohibition on export of logs was a loss not only to the government but also to the people of Sabah.

Earlier, LDP president Encik Chong Kah Kiat said the time had come for the people of Sabah to stand up against what he claimed to be "falsehood" in the PBS administration. -- more

ZAA MIB MGN

▼30/05/15-54MST

CNS9645

U GE 30-05 00110 EA430

aae tbe

Mahathir-pledge 7 (last) Kota Kinabalu

"This can only be done with the return of the government administration to the BN," he said.

Chong also claimed that Sabah had lost millions of ringgit in revenue from timber export owing to under-declaration.

He also questioned the action of the PBS government in substituting the Amanah Rakyat Sabah certificate with the Amanah Rakyat Negeri Sabah certificate issued by a company which had no asset or timber concession.

He likened the action to robbing the shares of the people of Sabah in the Sabah Foundation. -- Bernama

ZAA MIB MGN