

# Sabah leaders told not to rob State

KUCHING, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked Sabah leaders to bear in mind that they have been appointed (to office) not to rob their own State.

The Prime Minister said this had happened before and had to be stopped.

He said what was important was not just wealth but the greater reward was the ability to serve the people and bring progress to the country.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Sarawak Barisan Nasional at Santubong Resort, 32km from here tonight, Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president and BN chairman said leaders must work without fear or favour.

He said there was no pride in becoming a leader or a

prime minister who had to go begging from other countries, and doing so would only affect the honour of the country and the people.

As long as the people understood the concept of the BN, did not misuse power and worked hard, Malaysia would become a very successful country.

"We (leaders) are not here to strut around just because we have the power. We are given the power to help develop the country and raise it to the level which could make its citizens proud wherever they are," he added.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that BN leaders and members were aware of their mission to bring dignity to Malaysia.

"To misuse power is unforgivable. You are elected by the people who expect you to work. I am sure leaders of BN realise this."

He said that the success achieved by the BN Government in developing the country and bringing progress and unity had proven prophets of doom wrong, and that this achievement — with a multiracial population — should always be cherished and valued.

He said that this success could be preserved as long as the BN concept was upheld. "But the concept alone would not guarantee achievement. We also need qualities such as the willingness to work hard. That is why, although in Malaysia there were people who had called for a five-day

week work, we rejected it.

"We must catch up. You cannot catch up by running at the same speed as the others. You have to run faster ... this is a simple fact."

Malaysia, he said, had made tremendous progress. This is evident from the increase in the per capita income from US\$300 (RM840) during the early period of Independence to today's US\$3,250.

He also said that 71 per cent of Malaysia's exports today were manufactured goods.

Among those present at the dinner were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib Mahmud and Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud.