

Government by capable and dedicated Barisan leaders from the S

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PM's vision of new Sabah

By K.P. Waran

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. — Sabah will be led by leaders from the State should the Barisan Nasional win the State elections next month, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Sabah under the BN would have dedicated and sincere leaders who were also clean, efficient and trustworthy.

Dr Mahathir said it was now time for the people of Sabah to vote in a State Government capable of bringing more development so that they would not be left behind their counterparts in other States.

Dr Mahathir said: "BN leaders from Sabah will lead the people from the State. The important thing now is that the BN should win the elections and form the next Government.

"We believe that when the BN comes to power in the State, we will form a Sabah Baru Government comprising leaders from the State committed towards working for the people.

He stressed that economic development, progress and better living standards for the people of Sabah would be better ensured if the BN came to power.

He said the BN already had plans to implement a comprehensive development programme which included better infrastructure and better living conditions in all of Sabah.

"We will ensure that BN leaders in Sabah visit every nook and corner of the State and redress existing shortcomings and implement new programmes to benefit the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people of Sabah should realise that they had not seen much progress and instead was lagging behind other States, especially its neighbour, Sarawak.

He said Sarawak's development was attributed to the close State-Federal relationship and the State leadership's commitment to bringing about development.

"The Barisan Nasional does not make empty promises. We have proven this in

"Contrary to what is being alleged by the Parti Bersatu Sabah, Sabah Baru will not be a Government administering from Kuala Lumpur. The whole Government will be made up of leaders from Sabah.

"They will work hard for the people of Sabah. What is important for everyone here to realise is that the new Government would get the co-operation and assistance of the Federal Government to ensure the effective implementation of development programmes.

"The time has come for Sabah to enjoy intensified development like the other states," he told a meet-the-*akyat* gathering at Beaufort, about 120km from the state capital.

the past. We promise a new State Government committed towards better living standards in the State, including putting Sabah on par with other States, if not surpassing the development in some States," he said to thunderous applause from the crowd.

Also present at the gathering were Sabah Umno liaison chief Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai, Limbawang Umno division chief Onn Ariffin and BN national leaders including several Cabinet members.

Dr Mahathir urged the people not to vote for the PBS led by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Ki-

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Go with winds of change, urges PM

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tingan since the party had only succeeded in making the State more backward.

He said the conviction of Pairin for corruption clearly showed that he was not committed to helping the people of Sabah but more inclined to giving projects to his family members.

"It will be a shame if the people of Sabah choose someone who is corrupt to lead them since it would mean the people will become victims again, having to suffer more.

"If Pairin is a man with strong moral convictions, he should not stand for election especially after being convicted in a court of law

for corruption," he said.

He said it was obvious that the people of Sabah did not hate the Federal Government but Pairin was on a mission to confuse the people by spreading allegations that the Federal Government was bad.

He said Pairin wanted to "cloud the eyes" of the people by highlighting non-existent issues and portraying the Federal Government in a bad light to cover up for his failure to bring progress to the State.

Dr Mahathir said close co-operation between the Federal and State Governments would ensure better services, including roads, water and electricity supply, and more programmes to

benefit the people all over Sabah.

The business community too needed effective co-operation between the Federal and State Governments, the Prime Minister said.

He said a clean, efficient and trustworthy BN State Government would strive for the betterment of the people. He cited the many leaders leaving the PBS as an indication of mismanagement of the State by the party and urged the voters "to go with the winds of change" and vote for a reliable BN State Government.

He said the Government did not tolerate corruption and if any of its leaders were found to be corrupt, action would be taken against

them and gave an assurance to the Sabah people that the people's interest would be given priority over all other interests.

He urged all BN component parties in the State to be united in their quest to win the elections and advised the people to vote for the BN regardless of which component party the candidate was from.

The Prime Minister also said that BN leaders who failed to perform their work in Sabah if they won the election would be made accountable for their failures.

The BN could not tolerate leaders who worked only for their self-interests, especially if they were corrupt, he said.