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Mahathir - Kadazan
CHOOSE BETTER KADAZAN LEADERS, URGES MAHATHIR

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KOTA KINABALU, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the Kadazans in Sabah to choose better leaders from within their community to replace Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

The Prime Minister said there were many other leaders with high morals who were able to lead and defend the community.

"Although Pairin is regarded as a Kadazan leader he does not keep his word and stabs his friends in the back," he said at a meet-the-people session at a leading hotel here today.

Dr Mahathir stopped over here en route back to Kuala Lumpur after a four-day official visit to the Philippines.

"Choose leaders who truly struggle for the Kadazans," he said. -- more

▼06/02/21-07MST

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Mahathir - Kadazan 2 Kota Kinabalu

He said the Sabah people had sacrificed nine years for Pairin, the Chief Minister, and still received no benefit.

"A person who stabs friends in the back could do the same to others," he told the hall packed with Barisan Nasional (BN) supporters mainly from the Petagas and Sembulan constituencies.

Dr Mahathir said Pairin's action was not reflective of the character of the Kadazans who were well-mannered and kept their promises.

The Kadazans/Dusuns make up about 35 per cent of the population of Sabah which has about 40 ethnic groups professing various religions.

Pairin became Chief Minister when he led his Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to victory in the 1985 state elections against the then ruling Parti Beraya.

Dr Mahathir said he did not regard the Kadazans as his foe and, in fact, had many friends from the community. -- more

▼06/02/21-23MST

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Mahathir - Kadazan 3 Kota Kinabalu

"What's wrong in Sabahans electing another leader who is also a Sabahan, to lead the state so long as the leader is sincere?" he asked.

He said the people of Sabah should consider this election as a serious matter so that they could elect a government that could bring progress to the state.

He said although there were people from Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak helping the BN in the campaigning, they would not get anything from this election.

"They are here to help, so that the people of Sabah would get a good government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people of Sabah should make a wise decision as their future depended on their choice of government.--more

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CNS9223

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Mahathir-Kadazan 4 (last) Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said Pairin took the BN for a ride in the 1990 general election when he made a request to use the PBS symbol in the election.

"He promised to continue to support the BN. We believed him and we agreed to his request without harbouring any doubt," he said.

Pairin, however, pulled PBS out of the BN after the nomination day leaving the BN without candidates in some constituencies.

"I believe that the PBS members were also unaware of his intention," he said.

Present at the session were Encik Yahya Hussein and Dr Chong Eng Leong who were representing BN in Petagas and Sembulan respectively.

Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali later left for Kuala Lumpur.-- Bernama

MOK ES OS

▼06/02/21-57MST