

Choose from other leaders, Dr M tells Kadazans

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KOTA KINABALU, Sun. — Kadazans can choose from many other capable leaders who are honest, hardworking and who care for the people to lead them, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the people of Sabah, particularly the Kadazan/Dusun community, should not sacrifice their well-being by supporting Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan's aspiration to continue as the Chief Minister.

"There are many more capable and trustworthy Kadazan/Dusun leaders who could be supported and made Chief Minister," he said at a meet-the-people session organised by the Barisan Nasional divisions in Petagas and Sembulan.

Dr Mahathir said as Sabah was lagging behind in development, the people now had the opportunity to be on par with their counterparts in other States by giving the mandate to the BN in the coming elections.

He said a Barisan Government would be fair to all races.

"When the BN makes promises, they will be delivered," he said to the applause of the large crowd.

Dr Mahathir said Barisan had nothing against the PBS but could not get along with its leaders, particularly Pairin, who had proven himself to be insincere.

He said that during the 1990 general election, Pairin played out the BN by pulling out of the coalition a few days before polling.

"Pairin now wants to return to the BN, but how can we trust him?"

He urged the voters not to be duped by the PBS' tactics of confusing the people that Umno was trying to grab power in the State.

He said Barisan had proven itself by co-operating and working closely with all its component parties and all races to bring about a just and developed society.

He urged the voters to give their votes to the BN irrespective of which component party the candidate was from.

Among the Barisan leaders present were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy

Vellu, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Perlis Menteri Besar Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

Before Dr Mahathir spoke, BN candidates Dr Chong Eng Leong of the Liberal Democratic Party (Sembulan) and Yahya Hussein of Umno (Petagas) were introduced to supporters who packed the hall.

Yahya in his speech urged the people of Sabah to unseat the PBS which has ruled Sabah for nine years without bringing much development, resulting in them continuing to live from hand to mouth.