

PM: PBS using politics of discord in campaign

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regrets the use of politics of discord and division by the Parti Bersatu Sabah in its election campaign as this can threaten the peace and stability of the country.

The Prime Minister said among the issues stressed by the PBS in its election campaign to stir the sentiments of the people of Sabah, were:

- The Federal Government wanted to colonise Sabah;
- Umno entered Sabah because it wished to colonise the State;
- If the Barisan Nasional ruled (the State), all languages, customs, religions and cultures of Sabah, especially that of the Dusun, would be wiped out and they would be converted to Islam. Christians would be suppressed;
- If the BN came to power, all dialects of the various ethnic groups would be wiped out and be replaced by Bahasa Melayu; and,
- If the Chief Minister was a Muslim, churches would be demolished.

He said all these allegations were untrue, adding that the PBS was only trying to fan anti-federal sentiments so that the PBS Government's failure would not be turned into an issue.

The PBS theme was "hate the Federal Government and support PBS," he said. He said the PBS was not taking seriously the consequences of its continued leadership of the State.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said in a statement today that the PBS too wanted the support of the Federal Government but in its campaigns, the party criticised the Federal Government.

He questioned that if what the PBS stated about the Federal Government was true, why did the party wish to foster relations with the Federal Government.

Dr Mahathir also said that the Sabah Government did not like the presence of Federal Government officers in the State as the PBS was afraid that all its abuses and malpractices would be exposed.

He said without federal officers in Sabah, today PBS might have sold the State for the benefit of the party and its leaders.

"What the Sabah people should ask is why Sabah which is ruled by the PBS is not prosperous when Sarawak, with many non-Malay people, can prosper.

"What Sarawak has, Sa-

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Dr M: Don't be deceived again

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bah also has, including royalty from oil. What did the PBS do with the oil royalty? Why Sarawak can utilise the oil royalty efficiently but not Sabah?"

He said the Federal Government also received five per cent royalty from oil and not 95 per cent as alleged by the PBS.

The Prime Minister said the people of Sabah should take the opportunity to change to a Barisan Nasional Government as it was the only one which could bring prosperity to the people and form a new Sabah.

The people of Sabah go to the polls tomorrow and on Saturday to choose the State Government.

Dr Mahathir hoped the people of Sabah would not be deceived by the PBS again.

"Nine years is enough. If PBS wanted to help the people of Sabah during the nine years of its rule, the people would certainly be well off.

"But everybody knows that the people of Sabah did not benefit from the PBS Government.

"Those who received the benefits are certain people in the PBS."

He also said that the PBS continued to harp on issues which could fan racial and religious sentiments, give rise to parochialism and develop a hatred for the Federal Government.

Such issues could not only affect the unity of the multi-racial and multi-religious people which had been fostered all this while, but more dangerously, affect the peace and stability of the country.

He asked if the PBS was trying to turn the country into Bosnia-Herzegovina or Northern Ireland or Kashmir.