

We want coalition that will work for all, says PM

NSD 10 MAR 1994

By Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Indications are that 75 per cent of PBS State Assemblymen want to leave their party and join component parties of the Barisan Nasional, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"It appears that there is no possibility of the PBS continuing to lead the Government," the Prime Minister said, adding that the party has lost its majority in the Assembly.

"We will submit the relevant documents to the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Mohamad Said Keruak when the situation becomes clear. At present, the situation is unclear," he told reporters at his Sri Perdana residence today.

Asked about the possibility of Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan joining a new party, Dr Mahathir said if the party supported the Barisan Nasional, then it would be accepted into the coalition.

"This will mean that we will have more Assemblymen than the PBS and thus we can table a no-confidence motion against the present Government."

Dr Mahathir added that the PBS Assemblymen wanted to join the Barisan Nasional to form a Government that would work for all Malaysians.

"We want a coalition Government that will work for all Malaysians, not only for a certain community in Sabah. The slogan *Sabah for Sabahans* must, therefore, be dropped," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there must always be close co-operation between the State and Federal Governments and added it was only then that the Federal Government could bring development to the State.

He said the Barisan Nasional would strictly abide by its manifesto in which it promised that the Chief Ministership would be rotated among the three main communities.

The three main communities are the Malay/Muslim Bumiputera, Kadazan/Dusun and the Chinese.

"The Chief Minister from each community would serve for two years each."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional was not certain of the number of Assemblymen who wanted to cross over, but added that the Barisan Nasional already had enough seats to form the next Government.