

No need to change BN concept, says PM

Sun 5 2 4 III 1994

KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that there was no need to change the coalition government of Barisan Nasional as it was the best system of administration in cosmopolitan Malaysia now.

"Perhaps one day, when we are no longer apprehensive of whether our community is represented or not, we will have one party without a coalition.

"But the time has not come yet because we still harbour apprehensions on whether our interests are taken care of in the government or party," the Prime Minister said here.

Opening the third congress of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar), a Sabah Barisan component party, he said the concept of coalition parties of the Barisan ensured that all communities, including minorities, were represented and enjoyed development.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan chairman, said the coalition government in Malaysia was not like those in other countries because all the component parties contested as one large party and not against one another.

"We help one another. The im-

portant thing is that we support Barisan candidates," he added.

Dr Mahathir hoped the Barisan concept would go down well in Sabah so that all the people were accorded equal treatment.

"Some people say the Kadazan do not support the Barisan. I think this is not true. If there are Kadazans who do not support us, it does not mean that we will not help them," he said.

He said the government will continue to help the Kadazan community so that they could enjoy the benefits of development.

"There are several Kadazan parties in the Barisan now and there is no reason why they should isolate themselves from the Barisan Nasional, which is the symbol of justice for all communities in Malaysia," he said.

To represent the Kadazan community, he said, the Barisan had appointed Parti Demokratik Sabah president Datuk Bernard Dompok as federal minister, Akar deputy president Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan as deputy minister and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Datuk Joseph Kurup as Sabah deputy chief minister.