

# PM: Stability is our mainstay

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KUALA LUMPUR: Political stability and consistency of government policies will be maintained if the Barisan Nasional continues to be in power.

"Foreign investors are also attracted to Malaysia because of its political stability and consistent policies.

"Our consistency has enabled investors to make long-term plans without having to worry about any changes the Government," said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when opening Gerakan's 23rd annual delegates' conference here yesterday.

Among the Barisan component leaders present were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Also present were MCA vice-president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, MCA secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, Akar

deputy president Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, SAPP president Datuk Yong Teck Lee and Parti Demokratik Sabah president Bernard Dompok.

Dr Mahathir said the country's success was the result of having the same government since Independence.

"Imagine what will happen to stability if the government changes every time there is a general election?

"This will result in inconsistent policies and may eventually lead to political instability in the country.

"This has happened in several countries where policies change everytime there is a change in government during elections," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said Malaysia would not be a lesser democratic country if the people returned the Barisan to power in each general election.

"Malaysia is a democratic country because the people

can replace the Government which they dislike.

"If the people chose the same party to form the Government this is also their democratic right."

Dr Mahathir attributed the success of the Barisan to mutual understanding and the spirit of tolerance among component party leaders.

"However, this does not mean that there are no differences in opinion among the leaders and members but we resolve our difference in a rational manner... just like a family," he said.

Many foreign observers, he said, were amazed at Barisan's success in representing the interest of various races.

"They are surprised how the different component party leaders are not at odds with each other.

"They think it is impossible for any political entity that represents the interests of many races can remain united and co-operate for so long."