

Dr M confident of support for BN in polls

By Farush Khan and
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KOTA KINABALU, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed confidence that the people will support the Barisan Nasional in the forthcoming general election and promised that nobody will be overlooked in the distribution of the country's wealth.

The Prime Minister also hoped that all component parties in Sabah will continue to work closely to ensure the BN's victory in all the 20 parliamentary seats in the State.

At present the BN holds 16 seats while the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) holds the rest.

He said the BN Government and Umno were not selfish but always treated everyone fairly, irrespective of their race, religion and origin.

"It is true that the Muslims and Malays make up the majority of the population, but they do not intend to take everything for themselves. We realise that the country's continuous success depends on the co-operation of others. Therefore, we must treat everyone fairly," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president and BN chairman, was opening the third annual congress of the Chinese-based Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at the Dewan Sekolah Menengah Kian Kok here. Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai and LDP president Chong Kah Kiat.

Dr Mahathir called on the people, including the Chinese community, to strive with the BN Government to "let the cake grow and be fairly shared".

In this aspect, he said, Malaysia had developed rapidly and achieved success "beyond our dream" with the people of all races and tribes sharing its fruits of development fairly.

In Sabah, however, development was a bit slow, he said, but it was only because the BN could not have the opportunity to rule the State continuously.

"I am convinced that the opportunity given to the BN this time will enable it to strive so that everyone can taste the fruits of development," he said, adding that it would, however, take some time as the new BN Government had to work to rectify all past malpractices under the PBS, especially in the utilisation of timber resources.

Many in the timber industry, he said, would perhaps be dissatisfied following the freeze on timber exports from Sabah recently to meet local demand, but this would be overcome soon.

He said the BN was not a party which practised discrimination although some had not supported it in the past.

"That is why we see those who are our enemies at one time can become friends. This is not new to us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if the BN could not co-operate

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