

# Give full support to Sakaran's successor, says Dr M

KOTA KINABALU, Fri.— Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on all Barisan Nasional component parties in Sabah to support whoever is appointed to replace Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai as Chief Minister.

Stressing that changes in the leadership was normal, he expressed hope that all levels of the State Government will give their full support to the new Chief Minister.

"If we continue to scramble for position and are unwilling to co-operate it is the State which will stand to lose," he said at a dinner in his honour hosted by the State Government here tonight.

Urging the people of Sabah to be patient, Dr Mahathir said the name of the new Sabah Chief Minister would be announced soon.

Among those tipped to be appointed to the post are Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said and Minister of Land and Co-operative Development Datuk Osu Sukam.

Sakaran, who had on numerous occasions expressed his intention to quit, is expected to be appointed as Sabah's Yang di-Pertua Negeri succeeding Tun Mohamed Said Keruak whose two-year term expires on Dec 31.

The Prime Minister, on his arrival here on Wednesday for a four-day private visit, said he has accepted Sakaran's decision to resign.

He said Sabah was poised to experience rapid development following the formation of the State BN government.

Co-operation between the State and Federal governments had been further enhanced now that Sabah was under a BN government, he said, adding that this will bring about great benefits to the people in Sabah.

He said the private sector had shown great enthusiasm to invest in Sabah, an indication of better things to come for the State.

He also said Sabah's economic growth was set to improve and contribute to Malaysia's overall economic performance.

Dr Mahathir said the slow economic growth in Sabah for past several years had affected the overall economic performance of the country.

The tourism industry was one area which could bring about substantial revenue to Sabah.

He said many Malaysians spent their holidays overseas annually which resulted in massive exchange loss. With rapid tourism development they would prefer to spend their vacation within the country.

He hoped that with the construction of more hotels the numbers of tourists to Sabah will increase significantly.

He said all segments of the community, from taxi drivers to hoteliers, must work hand in hand to promote Sabah as a successful tourist destination.