

Dr M: Sabah well on road to development

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TUARAN, Mon. — Sabah has experienced visible development since the Barisan Nasional formed the State Government compared to during the nine years Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) was in power. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Since March last year, he said, various multi-million-ringgit projects had been implemented with a few completed, others under implementation and sever-

al still at the planning stage.

"But the Government has provided the allocations.... (It is) just a matter of implementation," he said, when launching the RM100-million Berungis-

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SAYS DR M: P2**

Kota Belud road project here today.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would be doing a lot more for the people of Sabah and was confident that all would go well now that the State was run by

the Barisan Nasional Government.

He said the Berungis-Kota Belud road project was just the start of many more multi-million-ringgit infrastructural projects that would benefit the people.

"This is possible as the State Government now enjoys cordial working relations with the Federal Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that being a federation of several States, there were bound to be those which had comparatively lower incomes, but all would get the same amount of attention in terms of development from the Govern-

ment.

"In terms of revenue from taxes, Selangor, which has no timber, contributes more to the national Budget compared to timber-rich Sabah."

He said revenues derived from local sources in Sabah would not be sufficient to finance development projects in the State without contributions from the national Budget.

The Prime Minister said the Federal Government, with the full backing of the State Government, would strive to reduce, if not, eradicate poverty among the people of Sabah.

He said this would be done not by "spoonfeeding"

but through the people's participation in government programmes including tourism-related businesses.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was confident that development in Sabah would create jobs for the people as well as enhance their economic standing.

Earlier in his speech, Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Mohammad Said said the launch of the Berungis-Kota Belud road project was further proof that the State BN Government formed in March last year was fulfilling its promises to bring development to the State.