

Varsity, development promised for Kelantan

By Rosli Zakaria

KUALA KRAI, Thurs. — The Barisan Nasional, if returned to power in Kelantan, has promised to build a university in the State and pledged to seek Kelantan-born professionals to return to help develop the State further, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the construction of a university was possible should the people give the BN the mandate to set up a Government.

He added that the BN was prepared to set aside between 400ha and 800ha to build the university, which would be complete with all the necessary landscape and infrastructure.

"The State will be able to produce students who can contribute towards developing the State and the country in future," he told about 15,000 people at a meet-the people session at Sekolah Menengah Vokasional Kuala Krai here.

Also present were Information Minister and BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, National and Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Deputy Finance Min-

ister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad and former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob.

Dr Mahathir added that he had met professionals from Kelantan who were willing to support efforts to industrialise the State to be on par with the more developed ones on the west coast.

"There are many successful professionals who hail from Kelantan and are setting up industries in other States. I have met them and they have voiced their willingness to return and help develop the State."

He singled out Datuk Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah, chairman of General Lumber, who he said had established his company as a giant with investments both in Malaysia and abroad. He also mentioned Datuk Mohd Nadzmi Salleh, managing director of Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional.

"Why didn't he (Mohd Nadzmi) set up a factory in Kelantan? It's because the Government is not right!" he said to the applause of the audience in the school's multi-purpose hall.

He said with more industries set up in Kelantan, the migration of its people to countries like Singapore and other States could be

reduced.

"We are not making empty promises when we say that Kelantan can become another industrial centre and a model State. We have succeeded in more difficult situations."

For example, he said land in Langkawi about eight years ago was worth about RM500 per hectare but after the BN Government promised development on the island, the price appreciated to between RM300,000 and RM400,000 per hectare.

"Today, landowners with about three to four acres of land can become millionaires if they sell their land. It's all because we kept our promise to develop Langkawi."

"Today Langkawi is famous. At one time only 30,000 tourists visited the island but last year the island received more than one million visitors," he added.

Dr Mahathir said there are few professionals who hail from Langkawi but Kelantan has many who are not only well educated but also successful.

However, he said he was baffled as to why many successful professionals from Kelantan could not establish themselves in the State.

"It's because the Pas Gov-

ernment is more interested in politics which creates animosity and disunity among the people. What Pas leaders want are titles and power."

Dr Mahathir also advised Pas to stop making moves to disunite the people for the sake of power because such moves would not benefit the people, adding that they should also appoint people who could perform the task of developing the State.

He urged the people in Kelantan to check what Pas had done and what Umno had done for Islam.

"Islam asks its followers to unite, which is what Umno is doing. But Pas promotes disunity by calling names, which weakens Muslims. They know that Islam is weak because of disunity."

He cited a clear-cut case where disunity had weakened Islam in the Middle-East where Islamic countries with more than 90 million population could not defeat neighbouring Israel with a population of three million.

"In Malaysia, we can still overcome Pas' efforts to weaken Muslims because the BN Government is strong. In fact, we have proven more of our ability

by sending our troops to help Muslims in Bosnia and Somalia.

"We can do this because the Government is ruled by the Barisan Nasional. We are strong although Pas will use any means to weaken our influence. But if the people choose Pas, then disunity will widen and the country will lose the respect of both the developing and developed nation."

Dr Mahathir urged both Pas and Semangat 46 supporters and members to return to Umno for the sake of Malay unity.

"We are not angry nor harbour hatred against Pas or Semangat 46 supporters because we know that they fell for their leader's promises. As for Semangat 46 supporters and members, they knew about Umno's struggle but why did they burn the bridge because of slight anger?"

"However, as for the fanatical Pas members, I urge them to open their eyes and ears and listen to what others have to say, rather than obeying whatever their leaders say. If we leave everything to our leaders and we obey whatever they say without thinking about it, we lose our human values," he added.