

# Dr M: Promises we can fulfil

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today unveiled the Barisan Nasional manifesto which he described as "moderate" and one that does not "make promises we cannot keep".

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, said the manifesto provides for continuity in the administration of the country and implementation of development programmes for the good of the people and nation.

The nine-point manifesto is titled: "Barisan Nasional — Vision, Justice, Efficiency."

Dr Mahathir said these were the proven qualities of the coalition with a record of success that was "clear to anybody".

"We are a Government that is visionary, just and efficient. This is something we can achieve. We are not making promises we cannot keep."

The manifesto, in promising to "spare no effort to ensure a smooth and rapid development", touched on the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

The Barisan Nasional Government, it said would preserve the environment by among others, a planned and responsible utilisation of natural resources including forests, introducing the latest system of disposing toxic waste and rubbish, maintaining the cleanliness of water sources, beaches, coastal waters, and replanting trees that are cleared by logging and also beautifying the environment.

On the development of a "confident future generation", the manifesto pledges to do this through Rakan Muda programmes which would emphasise training and creating opportunities and activities that are constructive and healthy.

It also promises to provide facilities in sports and activities for the youths' physical well-being, instill high moral values, foster self-confidence and willingness to face all challenges, increase their knowledge and capabilities in high technology skill and promote discipline that can contribute towards



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their productivity and the nation's.

The Barisan Nasional said it would continue to improve the administrative system through reviewing all government procedures to determine their suitability, updating and making changes, if necessary.

The manifesto also pledges to reduce red-tape in government departments by simplifying procedures and forms, using more office automation to improve efficiency and pay fair and reasonable wages and salaries to commensurate with productivity.

Dr Mahathir said when the Barisan talked of a vision, "it is not a dream".

"We have proven this. In some cases, we have even achieved (vision) earlier than expected," he said at the Dewan Tun Hussein Onn of the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir, who walked into the packed hall at 9.30am, was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat.

Also present were Wanita Umno leader Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers, besides leaders of component parties including those from Sabah and Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional was "not making ridiculous promises like abolishing this tax and that tax".

"Other people can do that. We don't make empty promises but (our promises) are confined to our capability

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# 'We wish to serve the people, nation again'

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and that of the country."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan wanted to continue governing and administering the country justly and efficiently and its slogan was to serve the people.

He said Malaysia was among the most progressive among developing countries and had charted remarkable success which was a record anywhere in the world.

Some countries, he said, had even regarded Malaysia as a newly-industrialising country or economy.

Dr Mahathir said the country's rapid progress with economic growth since the Barisan's administration was an average of six per cent each year and in the last seven years, more than eight per cent every year.

He said it was important to have continuity in admin-

istration and the Government has proven its capability to develop the country despite the depressing world economic situation.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional would contest in all the parliamentary and State seats in the election not to forever be the "Yang Berhormat" or "get allowances" but to set up a Government.

"Because only with a government can programmes

be implemented for the good of the country and the people. We are contesting by stating our wish to serve the people, the nation again."

Later, replying to questions from reporters, the Prime Minister said translated versions of the manifesto including those in Tamil, kadazan and Iban will be distributed in the next couple of days.

To a question on whether the Barisan manifesto took

into consideration the contents of the manifestos of the other parties, Dr Mahathir said: "We did not make any changes. What we know is that their manifesto has no basis at all...they want to abolish this and that."

On whether the Barisan had a separate manifesto for Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said Kelantan would be launching an addendum to the BN manifesto later.