

PM: Show of support a positive pointer

PENANG, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has welcomed the support expressed by the Federation of Chinese Assembly Halls in Malaysia for what it said was the Prime Minister's effective leadership and for charting Vision 2020.

"This is a positive development because normally the Chinese assembly halls do not state their stand. This time, they are supporting the Barisan Nasional and the BN Government.

"This proves that we have done something that is fair for them while being fair to other communities including the Bumiputeras," he said in reply to questions from reporters after opening the Bandar Baru Air Itam police station here.

The federation said yesterday that the Government under Dr Mahathir's leadership had been implementing a series of liberal policies like the setting up of heavy industries, the Malaysia Incorporated concept, cutting red tape and bringing in huge foreign investments together with new technol-

ogy that motivated the growth of the economy.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on his assessment of the Barisan Nasional's chances of winning the election, including in Kelantan.

"Very bright ... even in Kelantan," he said.

Asked how many seats the Barisan could win, he said: "Certainly not as bad as in 1990."

On the DAP's "Try DAP for five years" slogan, he said laughingly: "You think people can take bets? Only Kit Siang can take bets at the people's expense."

Dr Mahathir said in five years a lot of damage could be done as "it took 30 years to build up an economy like Penang's but can take one year to destroy it ... you can be rest assured about that."

Asked what was the driving force for him given his hectic campaign schedule in the past nine days, he said: "We are here to work to develop the country to make it a country to be respected by the people. The success of Malaysia is the biggest payment."