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Dr M goes on the air to reach people

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Using a novel approach due to bad weather in the last day of campaigning for the Sabah election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad addressed voters in the State in two "live" broadcasts today.

Soon after his arrival from Kota Kinabalu, Dr Mahathir recorded a special message at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang for Sabah viewers which was telecast over networks tonight.

Dr Mahathir said a close rapport between the Federal and the Sabah State Governments would ensure the State's continued development.

"It's easier for the Federal Government (Barisan Nasional) to co-operate with an elected Barisan Nasional State Government for the betterment of the State," he said in his message.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, returned from the Sabah capital after a two-day visit to the State.

As voters head for polling booths over the next two days, Dr Mahathir said they should ensure there would be continued development in the State when casting their ballots.

"An elected Barisan Nasional Government would provide betterment for the State's future and the people's well-being."

During his two-day visit, Dr Mahathir said the people of Sabah have come out in full force in voicing their support for the Barisan Nasional.

"Even during times of crisis, like the economic problems faced by the country, it is the ruling Government which would ensure peace and tranquility ... unlike certain other countries," he said.

While in Sabah, Dr Mahathir addressed voters in the State over radio as bad weather at the Crocker Range hampered his trip to several constituencies.

"I had wanted to meet the people of Ranau and Kundasang but the bad weather forced us to turn back to Kota Kinabalu," he said to applause from the crowd at the bazaar ground in Kota Kinabalu.

The gathering was also attended by Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam and Barisan Nasional candidates Datuk Ewon Ebin (Kundasang) and Datuk Siringan Gubat (Ranau).

The helicopter transporting Dr Mahathir left Kota Kinabalu at 2pm but returned 20 minutes later.

Kasitah, Ewon and Siringan then suggested that the Prime Minister go over the air. Arrangements were made and Dr Mahathir went on air at 4.05pm.

In his 20-minute speech, Dr Mahathir said the people of Sabah were fortunate as they were represented by two full Ministers in the Federal Cabinet when some States in Peninsula Malaysia had none.

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