

05 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Sabah (Stability)

MAHATHIR: POLITICAL STABILITY BN'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT

PENAMPANG, March 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight maintaining political stability in the country is the biggest achievement by the governing Barisan Nasional (BN).

The prime minister said lasting political stability could only be guaranteed by the BN government through its sound policies.

A stable political situation was crucial to enable the people to reap the fruit of the country's wealth and prosperity, he said when speaking at a meet-the-people session in Moyog, near here.

Dr Mahathir said political stability, peace and harmony had attracted more than two million foreign workers to seek employment in Malaysia.

He said Malaysia could achieve economic growth without depending on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance if there was peace in the country.

He also said businessmen could do business without any hindrance if peace prevailed in the country.

He commended the Chinese community for their role in enhancing the country's economy particularly at a time when the country was facing economic problems.

" The country's economic strength hinged on the ability of the business community, majority of whom were Chinese," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the BN government would be fair to all communities and no one race would be given special treatment.

" We are fair to everyone and because of that, this country can grow and develop faster than other countries," he said.

He also gave an assurance to Sabahans that Umno would not form a government on its own without its fellow component parties.

" We will always form a government that represents all races both at federal and state levels," he added.

-- BERNAMA

HAK TS