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### Opposition preparing for defeat

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KUCHING, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Opposition was already preparing for defeat by prematurely claiming that the general election will be "unfair and corrupted".

He said already the foreign media, who are the Opposition's "close friend and supporter", have begun saying that this general election would be the most corrupted ever to be held in Malaysia.

"Why are they saying this? Because they know that the Opposition will lose and when they lose, they will say that it is due to the way the election was conducted.

"That's why we lost, they would say. Not because they are not popular but because the Government cheated ... they have already prepared their reason for their defeat.

"I say that they will be defeated because they are preparing for defeat while we are preparing for victory," Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said when opening the new Senari Terminal, some 30km from here.

He said the collaboration between the Opposition and the foreign media was because the Opposition depended on outside support as they did not have the support of Malaysians.

Dr Mahathir said the BN did not have to depend on foreigners for help because it was a "party that is proud of the country's integrity".

"The foreign media can say what they like against the BN, we couldn't care less. We are an independent country and the BN is an independent coalition that works solely for Malaysia and its people," he said to a huge crowd gathered at the terminal, the latest facility of the Kuching Port Authority.

Also present were Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, State Infrastructure Development and Communications Minister Datuk Wong Soon Koh, State dignitaries as well as component party leaders.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here last night, was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

He also urged the people not to "take the wrong step" by electing a party that was not only irresponsible and which did not have a record or experience in governing a country, but which had a terrible record of violating the laws of the country and inciting riots.

"Because they are irresponsible, they are therefore not qualified at all to be chosen to represent the people. Then surely they cannot be chosen to run the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir reminded voters of making the right choice so that the elected representatives were of a party that could efficiently run the country to bring benefits to the people.

"Don't think that we can cast our votes just for fun or just to see if a changed administration can bring better development to the country," he said, adding that the BN had since it first formed the Government been sensitive to the needs, welfare and interests of the people.

Dr Mahathir said the role of a modern Government was not merely to maintain law and order, ensure peace and stability but also to ensure "that the country becomes prosperous".

On Sarawak, he said the rapid progress of the state was due to an experienced and efficient as well as capable Government.

The RM260 million terminal which is capable of handling six million tonnes of dry cargo is one of the four terminals handling cargo for the

KPA.

Later in Johor Baru, Dr Mahathir expressed confidence that Johor BN would be able to retain its clean slate of winning all 20 parliamentary and 40 State seats.

He said his confidence stemmed from the fact that people from all walks of life in Johor had always stood behind the BN in the past.

"I am full of high spirits everytime I visit Johor because of the commitment towards the BN shown by the people, especially the young. With this kind of support, we can jolt the nation and indeed the world," he said when addressing a huge crowd at Pu Sze Chinese Primary School in Skudai, which is part of the Gelang Patah parliamentary constituency.

Pas and DAP candidates are involved in straight fights with the BN for control of the seat in the polls, which also includes the State seats of Skudai and Tanjung Kupang. The BN candidate for Gelang Patah is Teu Si alias Chang See Wen, while Khoo Kong Ek and Baharom Abdul Ghani have been fielded in Skudai and Tanjung Kupang respectively.

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