

15/03/1999

PM confident BN will win in general election

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday expressed confidence that the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) party will win the coming general elections, with continued support from the Malaysian majority.

"As proven in the just-concluded Sabah state election, the people are aware that the BN strives to ensure peace and security, racial cooperation and national development for them to have a better life," he said at the 50th anniversary celebration of Kampung Baru Jinjang in Kepong, Selangor yesterday.

The BN won 31 out of the 48 seats in the state legislative assembly while the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) won 17 seats. The other parties which contested in the state election were Bersekutu, Setia, Pasok and PAS. Addressing some 5,000 people attending the celebration, Dr Mahathir said the country remains stable even when its economy was attacked by rogue speculators.

He attributed the stability to the strong Government.

"Malaysia has succeeded in protecting its people. We are successful because of the strong Government that receives full support from all Malaysians.

"When the Government is strong, we can stand tall and overcome all form of threats against the country," he added.

Dr Mahathir said there were foreigners who claimed that the present Government is not getting the full support from the rakyat, and many of them wanted the existing leader to be replaced by somebody else.

"That is why they try their best to bring down the existing Government, but Malaysians are the ones that decide who should leads the country and not these foreigners. This is democracy, where the rakyat choose their leaders and Government."

Dr Mahathir said three months ago, local and foreign political observers stated that the BN would not be able to win the Sabah election, claiming that the Sabahans were fed-up with the BN Government.

"But yesterday, they could see how the BN has won with a big majority. This showed that the people of Sabah knew what they wanted," he said.

He reiterated that only Malaysians have the right to determine the fate and future of the nation and not foreign leaders or the Western media.

Dr Mahathir also said the Chinese community in the country could still carry on with their businesses despite the economic crisis caused by currency traders` attacks.

"But the Government has acted to protect the nation from such groups. I am confident that our economy will grow and the people will have more business opportunities," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if the Government is weak, it will not be able to defend the country and protect its people, adding that: "That is why the support of the people is most vital to enable the Government to help them."

On the new villages throughout the country, Dr Mahathir said it was set up some 50 years ago to protect the people, especially those settling near the jungle, from the communist threat during British rule.

He said that the new villages had grown rapidly and developed into centres for business and small- and medium-scale industries, and had adequate infrastructure.

Dr Mahathir said that this disproved claims by some foreigners that such

new villages were like concentration camps for the Jews set up by the Nazis.

Among those present were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba.

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