

Fulfil promises, PM tells newly elected reps

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KUALA LUMPUR: The elected representatives who won in the Sarawak state elections should now work hard to fulfil the promises they made during campaigning, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night.

He said the Barisan Nasional's victory in the elections was a sign that the people believed in the struggle of the coalition to develop the country.

"My advice to the candidates who won ... they had worked hard during the campaigning period and had made promises to help the people. Now that they have won, they should fulfil their promises. *Jangan pergi joli.* (Don't fool around).

"If they don't work hard, the party and the Government will go to the ground," said Dr Mahathir after attending the World Dental Congress opening ceremony at Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

He said the people of Sarawak accepted the leadership of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and did not believe in the crude and rough-mannered style of campaigning of the opposition parties.

"Such politics are unacceptable for the peace-loving society in Malaysia. The people rejected PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional which thought they could be frightened and threatened.

"Freedom and democracy is

not an avenue for political parties to threaten the people," added Dr Mahathir.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the people of Sarawak had made a wise choice.

He said the victory showed that Barisan had worked hard and gained the confidence of Sarawakians.

Abdullah, who has been in Saudi Arabia on a visit since Monday, congratulated all the victorious Barisan candidates.

"Barisan can ensure the continued progress of Sarawak and the people made the right choice by returning the coalition to power.

"With this mandate, the

state Barisan government can continue with its development programmes for Sarawak to ensure the people's well-being," said Abdullah.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the people of Sarawak voted for Barisan because it had looked after them well all the while.

"They will benefit from Barisan in the next five years," he added.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu considered Barisan's victory as a present from Sarawakians to Dr Mahathir.

"It shows that his leadership is strong and Sarawakians want Dr Mahathir to be stronger, happier and continue to be healthy," he said.