

24 SEP 2001

PM-Opposition

OPPOSITION MERELY CREATING IMITATION FRONT TO CHEAT THE PEOPLE

SIBU, 24 Sept (Bernama) -- The opposition created an imitation front among themselves merely to deceive the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Unlike the Barisan Nasional (BN), the opposition lacked sincerity to look after the interest of all ethnic groups in the country, he said.

"They are merely a gang of cheats, they not only deceive the rakyat but they also try to cheat their friends in the opposition, PAS cheats the DAP, DAP cheats PAS, DAP cheats Keadilan, and Keadilan cheats the PRM," he said in his speech at a meet-the-people session at the Sibu Airport this afternoon.

The prime minister also said that the people should not believe them as they could not form the government.

"On the other hand, BN at the federal and state levels are capable of bringing much development to the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who expressed happiness for being able to meet the residents in Sibu, said the BN concept was formulated to emphasise on cooperation among the various component parties and ethnic groups.

"In this way, we can implement rapid development nationwide," he said, adding that the opposition parties were trying to imitate such cooperation.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir also announced that the Sibu airport runway would be extended from 7,000 feet presently to 9,000 feet to enable bigger aircraft to land.

"Please ask the opposition which are fielding their candidate here whether they can extend the Sibu Airport runway.

"It is not possible for them to do so as they are not talking about forming the government if they win," he said to loud applause from the people at the gathering.

Dr Mahathir also expressed confidence that the voters in Sarawak would vote for the BN in the state election on Sept 27.

"I hope that you will not give even one vote to them because every vote given to them would be wasted.

"We will not get anything at all from them," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that if the people voted for the BN, the government would repay them by speeding up development in the state.

"We are not making empty promises, if we have the funds we will increase the allocation," he said.

Dr Mahathir also disclosed that the federal government had provided a Special Fund of RM50 million for Sarawak to overcome the effects from the economic recession in the United States which had resulted in slow economic growth.

"If funds are needed for specific projects, we will increase the allocation," he said.

The Prime Minister said the purpose of the election held every five years was to ensure the the people's representatives worked hard for the rakyat.

"Every five years, we give the rakyat the opportunity to choose and if they are not happy with their representatives, they can choose others (to replace them)," he said, adding that the BN representatives always worked hard.

-- BERNAMA

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