

27/09/2001

'BN will continue growth policies'

uel; Martin Yee; M. Danial

KUCHING, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed hope that the people of Sarawak will elect Barisan Nasional representatives so that they can continue policies aimed at developing the State.

Returning the BN to power, he said, would also ensure the good relationship between the State and Federal Governments was not affected.

"Until now, relations between the Federal and State Governments have been very good and that was how we could develop the State," the Prime Minister said in his message to the people of the State which was aired live over TV1.

The people go to the polls tomorrow.

The BN has won four of the 62 seats uncontested. The four BN component parties in Sarawak are the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak, Sarawak National Party and Sarawak United People's Party.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, hoped the people would not elect those who advocated violence and rough tactics.

He said the people of the State should solve internal problems on their own and not rely on these outsiders.

He was referring to Pas and Parti Keadilan Nasional which had adopted rough tactics in the run-up to the election to get support from the people.

Citing an example, Dr Mahathir said this group had threatened some BN supporters on the polling day for the Lunas by-election last November.

He said the people should not be intimidated by threats made by the Opposition and that the security personnel would ensure peace was maintained at all polling centres tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said since independence, the Alliance and later the BN which ruled the State had brought tremendous development.

"The people from various races and ethnic groups have lived peacefully and never had glaring differences," he said, adding that all these helped Sarawak develop faster.

Dr Mahathir made a one-day visit to Sarawak on Monday, making stops in Pulau Bruit in Sibiu and attending meet-the-people sessions in Kuching.