

Mahathir: Have no fear

STA R-9 AUG 2003

country and all are well represented, says Dr M

BY MUGUNTAN VANAR

KOTA KINABALU: Malaysians should have no fear of Malaysians as they live in one country with small and big communities represented in Barisan Nasional, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said that in Malaysia good relations persisted among the various races without conflict and the grievances of various religions were carefully looked into and resolved amicably.

"This is our way in Malaysia, there is no fear and suspicion. We are Malaysians and Malaysia is our country.

"Why should Malaysians fear Malaysia," he told the opening of the

9th congress of United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation led by Minister in Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok at Sabah Cultural Hall at Penampang near here.

Urging Malaysians to show patriotism and value their independence in celebrating this year's 46th National Day, Dr Mahathir said unlike the 14-member Barisan coalition, the co-operation among the opposition parties was merely a front built on mistrust.

"In front they give verbal assurance they are together but behind there is mistrust," he said of the co-operation among PAS, Keadilan and DAP.

In asking Barisan members to pre-

pare for polls, Dr Mahathir said that the Barisan concept was for everyone to support a candidate from any party chosen to represent the coalition.

Later at an airport press conference when asked if elections will be called soon, Dr Mahathir said: "I think I don't know how soon. I think I will leave it to my successor."

To whether the Sabah polls will be held before the general election, he said he did not know but if his successor wanted it early that would be his decision.

Paying tribute to Dr Mahathir as a progressive leader, Dompok said that the Prime Minister's favourite song *I Did It My Way* was for all Malaysians to

adopt and move ahead the Malaysian way.

Dr Mahathir also said he was glad that none of the school computer laboratories in Sabah has collapsed - unlike those in the peninsula.

He said he has been told by Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman that the laboratories were built in an orderly way and this was attributed to the competence of the contractors and political non-interference.

He said that elected representatives were willing to allow civil servants and contractors to carry out their projects without any interference.

"I think it will be good if contractors from the peninsula come and see the labs," Dr Mahathir said.