

16 MAR 2004

Election-Government

CHOOSE GOVT THAT WILL DEVELOP COUNTRY, MAHATHIR TELLS VOTERS

SHAH ALAM, March 16 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people should choose wisely for the development of the country.

As such, the former Prime Minister said they should ensure that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government would remain in power.

"We must continue with the government of the BN so that all programmes for the benefit of the people could be carried out properly," he said when addressing some 2,000 residence in Section 18 here today.

While thanking the people for their support during his 22 years as prime minister, Dr Mahathir said they should also support the country's new leadership led by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I urge you all to support Pak Lah so that he can continue with efforts to develop the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who would also help the BN in the campaign in Kelantan tomorrow, said Malaysia was the most developed among the developing nations and ranked 17th trading nation of the world.

He said the BN government did not make empty promises like the opposition especially PAS.

PAS was good in making promises to get their candidates elected not to serve the people but the allowance that came with the position, he said.

"But the BN candidates are different, we serve for everyone," he said, adding that the report card system introduced by Abdullah was to ensure that the elected representatives carried out their duties.

Dr Mahathir also described the opposition parties' promises, as contained in their election manifesto, to reduce various taxes and car prices as well as to abolish toll collection as unrealistic.

"Malaysia is moving ahead but if we the people want development, they have to pay taxes. There is no government that doesn't collect tax to provide facilities and services to the people," he said.

He also urged voters to come in full to vote on polling day.

He said they could vote early in the day to be in time for the

Formula  
One race in Sepang.  
-- BERNAMA  
HS IZI ABG