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Dr M: No reason to change support for the BN

Sulok Tawie

SIBU, Tues. - Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad sees no reason for the people of Sarawak to change their support for the Barisan Nasional simply because the country has a new Prime Minister.

"We have a different Prime Minister now, but we in Malaysia must show to the world that the transition is smooth and that the new leadership has the support and confidence of the people, even more than before," the former Prime Minister said at a meet-the-people session at the Dewan Suarah here today.

Dr Mahathir, who stepped down on Oct 31 last year for his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to take over, said the smooth transition was proof that leadership changes in Malaysia were carried out peacefully.

"Changes in the leadership should not affect the people's support for the Government.

"So on Sunday, come out in force to give Barisan Nasional a bigger mandate," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Pas and DAP would not be able to form the Federal Government even if they were to win all the seats they were contesting.

"In its manifesto, Pas promises to reduce taxes on motorcars, do away with road tolls and other things. But how can they do this when they cannot even form the Government?"

He said the opposition parties were trying to copy the Barisan Nasional by calling themselves Barisan Alternatif.

"You know, there is something about quality. When you have a copy of something, the quality is inferior. Anything that is an imitation is always inferior. So don't buy an imitation product. The price might be cheaper but the quality is suspect," he said.