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# Dr M: Regaining power not easy

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GEORGE TOWN: Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has cautioned that it would be difficult for Barisan Nasional to wrest back the five states which fell into the hands of the opposition in the March 8 elections.

Dr Mahathir said if the new governments ruled their respective states well, the people, particularly the Malays, would accept them.

He singled out Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's move in warning his elected representatives against having any dealings with state land as one that would appeal to the people.

He said the people voted for the opposition not because they

liked them but rather because they loved BN more and wanted to send a strong signal to the top leadership.

"I know for a fact that even Umno members voted for the opposition, irrespective of who (the candidates) they fielded.

"They did it discreetly and unwittingly, this led to the opposition's victory," he said in his keynote address when opening the Tanjung Malay Association (Permata) 7th annual general meeting here yesterday.

Present was his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about the 1988 judicial crisis and the need for the then govern-

ment to apologise.

"I have done nothing wrong and I don't see any need to apologise. I am willing to go to court for this."

He was also asked on an article in the *Jerusalem Post* that Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would be the next prime minister.

"It will be a disaster for the country if he becomes the prime minister.

"If the people, especially Malays, want to be dragged here and there, they can very well support Anwar," he said, adding that Malaysia was under colonialisation for more than 450 years and it should not return to that again.