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PAGE 8 | NEW STRAITS TIMES

PRIME NEWS

Dr M confident BN will emerge victorious

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EFFORTS WILL PAY OFF:

Voters should make decision based on who fulfils promises best

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FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident Barisan Nasional will emerge victorious in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir said this was based on the significant efforts by BN to recover from its dismal performance in the 2008 general election.

"I think this is an important election as the opposition has made many attempts to unseat the ruling government.

"Although it will be critical for BN as the party was not as strong as before, it has made great efforts to recover.

"I think BN will still do well. The question is only how many seats can the party win," he said after appearing at the *Sepetang Bersama Tun Dr Mahathir* programme at Albukhary International University here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said although the opposition parties appear to be united in their challenge against BN, they do not have a single symbol or agenda.

"They come together, not as a coalition, but only as a conspiracy-like entity to overthrow the government."

In the last general election, Pakatan Rakyat retained Kelantan and won Kedah, Perak and Penang.

The opposition lost Perak after three of its assemblymen aban-



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad autographing books for students of the **Albukhary International University** in Alor Star yesterday. Pic by Sharul Hafiz Zam



doned their parties and turned BN-friendly.

Dr Mahathir said he believed the people would make the right choice at the polls.

"I hope voters do not make their decisions based on emotion but on which party best delivers its promises."

Asked for his view on whether he believed the Philippines would pursue its claim on Sabah, Dr Mahathir said the matter could only be pursued at the International Court of Justice and that, too, if Malaysia agreed.

"If the Philippine government wants to make a claim to the United Nations (UN), it is also up to them.

"Even if the UN decided in favour of the Philippines, there are no laws which could compel us to give in."

On a lighter note, Dr Mahathir said he was happy that Pekan Rabu, where he once sold banana fritters, would be given a new lease of life.

"Thank you very much," he said when asked about the RM56 million facelift for the iconic trading centre, synonymous with the de-

velopment of Kedah-Malay entrepreneurship.

He described the move by the Prime Minister's Economic Planning Unit to renovate Pekan Rabu as timely.

"Once the new Pekan Rabu is ready, it must always be maintained. It must always look clean and bright so that more customers will come."

Once completed, the five-storey complex will have two additional floors with three floors for traders as well as an additional area for a parking lot.