

Take cue from China success — Mahathir

BP. 02.05.2012 A4

KOTA KINABALU: If the Sabah members of parliament pull out of Barisan Nasional (BN), the ruling coalition will collapse, warned former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

"It appears that we are dependent on Sabah, so don't let it cross your hearts not to support... we will continue to support," he stressed.

Mahathir, who was delivering a talk on 'Sabah in the context of Malaysia's socio-politics' at the Kinabalu Lecture Series organized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday, pointed out that Sabah has undergone many changes in the political, social and economic sectors.

This is the result of policies which are planned and managed by both the State and Federal Governments.

According to him, when the relationship between the state and federal government is good, the people will get to enjoy the benefits.

"Let's make comparison, there are countries that are rich in natural resources, they produce oil, metals, rare earths and the likes but because their administration is not considerate to the fate of its citizens, all the wealth from the natural resources cannot make the lives of the people better," he said.

One clear fact is that the Government must be considerate to the fate of the people and the country's administration is ever mindful of the people's needs and has brought much changes which are enjoyed by Sabahans, he said.

"Sabah in the context on Malaysia's socio-politics is something that is very effective from the aspect of the country's development but don't make a wrong step as it will be detrimental.

"I want to make comparison with what has happened in China. China is the largest country in the world. It has a population of 1.4 billion people. But we know that in the past China was a poor and backward country.

"It was left far behind compared to Malaysia however, today China has developed into a wealthy country which is considered a threat to big world powers like the United States of America," Mahathir pointed out.

China is so rich that America and Europe countries want to get a loan from it, he said, adding, "why was China poor in the past but is now rich?"

The answer, he said, is in its leaders.

In the past was Mao Tze Tung who is skilled in guerilla

warfare and was able to defeat Chiang Kai Shek. China became a free country but was poor and weak.

After Mao's demise, his successor was Deng Xiao Ping whose thinking was different from his predecessor and it was because of this difference that we suddenly saw the evolution of a country that was once backwards into a wealthy global powerhouse.

It was only because of two people, the wrong leader means no development and progress as well as poverty. Get a good leader and the country will enjoy wealth and progress.

"This is why a country's leaders play an important role which is why we should never choose a leader based on our feelings and emotions especially when we get carried away by allegations because we might suffer a worse fate.

"Rakyat Malaysia, thank God, always choose the right leaders and although we are a small country that does not have much natural resources, Malaysia is known globally as a country which has almost attained the status of a developed country.

"I am confident that by 2020, if nothing that can prevent this from happening, we will attain that status," he said.