

In natural resources; suggests petro faculty in UMS

# Sabah richest state soon: Dr M

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**Chris Maskilone**

**KOTA KINABALU:** Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday proposed that a Petroleum Engineering Faculty be set up at Universiti Sabah Malaysia (UMS) in view of the emerging oil and gas industry in Sabah.

He said it was important since a Petronas study showed Sabah would soon become the richest state in terms of its natural resources.

*"So, surely we need engineers in petro chemicals, exploration...we cannot let go off these opportunities just because we don't have the necessary expertise,"* he said.

Delivering a lecture on Sabah's Socio-Politics Development in the Context of Malaysia at the UMS main lecture hall here, Mahathir said Malaysia might only be producing a small amount of oil, that is about 650,000 barrels daily, compared to Saudi Arabia which is producing about 12 million barrels per day.

However, Malaysia's national petroleum company Petronas is involved in both upstream and downstream of the oil and gas industry, allowing it to fully reap the benefit, he said.

*"Perhaps with the setting up of the (Petroleum Engineering) faculty in Sabah, we will be able to enjoy more from the oil and gas industry,"* he said.

Kimanis Member of Parliament Datuk Anifah Aman had also made a similar proposition by calling on Petronas to set up its Universiti Teknologi Petronas branch campus on a 600-acre site in Mandahan Kimanis, near here. He said the proposed site was ideal since it is located close to the Sabah Oil and Gas Terminal (SOGT) there.

Meanwhile, in terms of social development, Mahathir noted that Sabah had experienced tremendous growth compared to the first time when he visited the State in 1965.

He said he came to Sabah with then Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak to meet with the Sabah leaders because they were rumours that Sabah and Sarawak might be joining Singapore to leave the Federation of Malaysia and create a new country.

At that time, he said there was no road and that there was one Sabah leader who had a Jaguar car but he could only drive it past his house and a few kilometres ahead before having to return home.

After meeting with the leaders in Sabah, he said thankfully the Sabah people had decided to remain in Malaysia.

He said there had been a glaring social transformation and even though parochialism is something that might not be easily removed, the relationship between Malaysians in Semenanjung and Sabah had become stronger.

*"This is something special because it was not planned...although we still have this feeling of which state we are from, we all agree that we are citizens of Malaysia,"* he said.

Unlike in other countries, Mahathir said it was reported in newspapers that war and killing of people happened just because of differences in religion, race and even sect.

*"In Malaysia we have something very dif-*

*ferent although we are from so many different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds, as well as in terms of standing in economy, we don't come to that stage.*

*"Yes, there are some dissatisfactions but we don't pull up a pistol (and shoot) although there are some who are interested to create chaos and portray as though we are living under cruelty. But for us rationale-minded people, there is nothing that is so stressful to the extent that we must act violently against the Government,"* he said.

Mahathir said it was human nature that there is bound to exist a small group of people who always remain unsatisfied.

*"Even after giving them (what they want), there are still something that they want again,"* he said.

*"We don't have Arab Spring...they (Middle East people) revolted because the government did not give them chance to choose the government, no work and no opportunity to study in universities.*

*"They felt they are victims of cruelty, so they revolted and now the old government had been toppled, but they still are unable to enjoy what they want because of the remaining chaos,"* he said.

*"But can we say that the same thing is happening in the Government of Malaysia? Rationale-minded people will see that the Government has been giving fair allocations to all,"* he said.

He said it was important to preserve the existing peace and harmony enjoyed by all the different ethnic groups in Malaysia, which had allowed the country to enjoy rapid development. He envisioned that one day Malaysians would no longer feel isolated no matter in which state they are.

It was clear that the glaring social development in Sabah was due to the good relationship between the State and Federal governments and their policies, he said.

More importantly is the need to have a sensitive government and he said the Government of Malaysia had been proven to be sensitive to the needs of the people and bringing progress for them to enjoy.

*"There are people saying that there is a need for a regime change in Malaysia but not through the electoral process but through violence,"* he said.

Even with its limited resources, Mahathir was confident that the Government's aim to make Malaysia a high-income nation by 2020 could become a reality "provided nothing disturbs its progress."

He also reminded on the importance of choosing the right leaders.

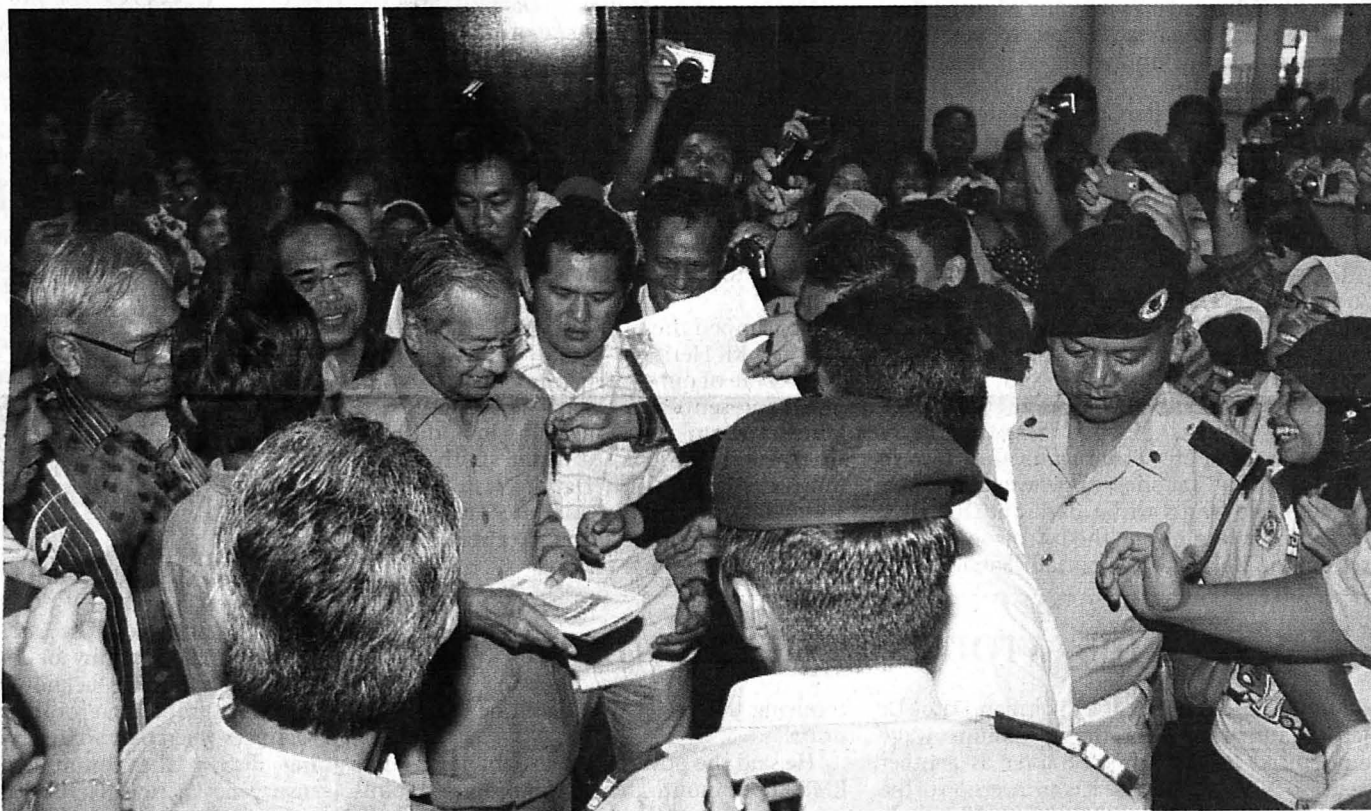
*"Wrong leader backward, get the right leader move forward (similarly) wrong leader poor, get the right leader rich,"* he said.

*"If we choose leaders based on emotion, then there is a possibility that we will get something that is bad but thankfully the people continue to choose the right leaders.*

*"At the moment, efforts are only being done to create hatred and not bring development and if we cannot control our emotion to choose leaders who only fight for their self interest, then all the progress in socio-politics will be gone.*

*"Once it is gone, it will be very difficult to get it back,"* he cautioned.

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Dr Mahathir swarmed by UMS students seeking his autograph at UMS yesterday.

# Sabah's progress on track in last decade: Musa

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"I am happy to note that the Sabah media has been responsive and positive in bringing significant and important news to the public, and has helped provide a platform for people to voice their needs or grouses. A special thanks to you for being our partner in progress," he said.

In eight years time, he said, Malaysia is expected to become a developed nation through various forward-looking initiatives.

"I am pleased to share with you that in the last decade, Sabah's progress has been on track in achieving development for the people. Our economy is continu-

ing to grow and the investment climate remains positive.

"A combination of factors, including political stability and the ability to pinpoint suitable sectors, are steering Sabah's growth

"Although the oil and gas sector is not new for Sabah, it is currently receiving more focus and is projected to create a stronger economy for the State, and overall for the nation.

"There is interest not only in deep-water exploration but also in the downstream sector that can help generate quality jobs and economic spin-offs.

"The setting up of the Sabah Oil and

Gas Terminal will transform Kimanis from a quiet town into a buzzing new oil town area. The Sipitang Oil and Gas Industrial Park further south is another significant development and one that will spur the emergence of a wide range of industries," he said.

Musa also congratulated the Kinabalu Shell Press Awards organising committee led by Sabah Journalists Association President Datuk Joniston Bangkuai together with Shell Malaysia.

He assured that the State Government would continue to support the tripartite partnership between Shell, SJA and the State Government.