

MAHATHIR - CANDIDATE
BM

82 (1)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, STRESSED TONIGHT THAT ALL BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE IF THEY WIN.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CHOSEN BY THE BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERSHIP.

+I HAVE PERSONALLY TOLD THEM TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID AT A CERAMAH (DIALOGUE) HELD IN SUPORRT OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL CANDIDATE FOR THE DAMANSARA PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY IN KAMPUNG KERINCHI HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BARISAN NASIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID HE WOULD MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF ALL BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED TO ENSURE THEY CARRIED OUT THEIR DUTIES EFFECTIVELY.

+IF NOT, THEIR CHANCES OF RECONTESTING WILL BE SLIM,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 235/MK

MAHATHIR - CANDIDATES 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON PAS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ITS LEADERS USED RELIGION AS A TOOL TO SECURE SEATS AND THIS KIND OF POLITICS SHOULD NOT BE USED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PAS-DAP PACT COULD NOT BE DENIED BECAUSE PAS PUT UP CANDIDATES IN AREAS WHERE MALAYS DID NOT FORM THE MAJORITY.

THIS WAS SOLELY TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR DAP CANDIDATES. THE DAP, IN RETURN FOR THIS FAVOUR, ALSO PUT UP CANDIDATES IN AREAS WHERE NON-MALAYS WERE NOT A MAJORITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PAS LEADERS WERE NOT THAT CLEVER BECAUSE THE PARTY FIELDDED 69 CANDIDATES IN NON-MALAY AREAS WHILE THE DAP FIELDDED ONLY 22 CANDIDATES IN MALAY AREAS.

THUS THE DAP GAINED MORE THAN PAS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 230A/MK

N164: (F)

MAHATHIR-CANDIDATE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID PAS LEFT THE BARISAN NASIONAL BECAUSE ITS LEADERS THEMSELVES WANTED THIS AND NOT BECAUSE IT WAS FORCED OUT.

+I HAVE REPEATEDLY INVITED THEM TO COME BACK INTO THE BARISAN NASIONAL BUT THEY SAID IT WAS TOO LATE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IF PAS RETURNED TO THE BARISAN, IT MUST BE WILLING TO ABIDE BY CONSENSUAL DECISIONS BECAUSE THIS WAS IMPORTANT FOR SOLIDARITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID OTHER PARTIES PLAYED ON NARROW RICIAL ISSUES BECAUSE SUCH TOPICS EASILY INCITED FEELINGS IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY.

+WHAT THEY WANT IS A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AND IN THE STATE ASSEMBLIES WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 2307/ZCM

→ 170

N170 (F)

MAHATHIR - CANDIDATE 4 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM 164)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR IMPRESSED UPON MALAY VOTERS IN THE DAMANSARA AREA THE CRUCIAL ROLE A MINORITY ELECTORATE COULD PLAY IN DECIDING THE OUTCOME OF THE CONTEST OF AN ELECTION.

IN AREAS WHERE MINORITY VOTES WERE THE DECISIVE FACTOR, THE VOTERS IN THE MINORITY WERE IN FACT THE KEY VOTERS.

THE DAMANSARA CONSTITUENCY HAS 39,000 CHINESE, 32,000 MALAY AND 19,000 INDIAN VOTERS AND REPRESENTS A THREE-CORNERED STRUGGLE AMONG ENCIK TAN KOON SWAN OF THE BN ENCIK V. DAVID OF THE DAP AND ENCIK RAMLI BIN MOHAMED YASIN OF PAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED MALAY VOTERS IN THE AREA TO EXERCISE THIS DECISIVE FACTOR IN FAVOUR OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

HE ALSO DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN DAMANSARA AND THAT IN OTHER AREAS WHERE THE BAN HAD PUT UP MALAY CANDIDATES IN CONSTITUENCIES WHERE NON-MALAYS FORMED THE MINORITY.

THE SAME REASONING APPLIED TO THESE AREAS, HE ADDED.--BERNAMA MORE 0017/AH

N171 (F)

MAHATHIR - CANDIDATE 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE CITED, AS AN EXAMPLE, HIS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF HAJI YUSUF RAWA OF PAS IN THE 1969 GENERAL ELECTION.

+I OBTAINED MORE MALAY VOTES THAN HAJI YUSUF BUT HE WON BECAUSE OF NON-MALAY VOTES+.

HE STRESSED THAT SPLITTING OF MALAY VOTES IN DAMANSARA WOULD RE-DELIVER THE SEAT TO THE DAP AND CALLED ON THE MALAYS SHOULD THINK ABOUT THIS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT MAKE THE FATAL MISTAKE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PAS PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST WAS SOLELY TO SPLIT MALAY VOTES TO ENABLE THE DAP CANDIDATE TO WIN THE SEAT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT VICTORY FOR ENCIK TAN MEANT VICTORY FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL WHICH NEEDED SUFFICIENT MAJORITY TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ASSURED THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH ENCIK TAN IN THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.--BERNAMA 0030/AH