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JITRA, JULY 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID WINNING SIX PARLIAMENTARY AND EIGHT STATE SEATS UNCONTESTED AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSED TODAY IS A GOOD SIGN FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR WHICH POLLING IS ON AUG 2 AND 3.

IT WAS AN INDICATION THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD NOT ONLY SECURE A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY BUT AN EVEN BIGGER WIN, HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH JITRA HERE, HE SAID IT ALSO SHOWED THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE UNABLE TO FIELD CANDIDATES, WHAT MORE SET UP A STRONG GOVERNMENT AT FEDERAL LEVEL.

ASKED WHETHER THE VICTORY WAS OBTAINED THROUGH TECHNICAL ERRORS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUCH ERRORS COULD NOT POSSIBLY ARISE WITH THE NEW SIMPLIFIED NOMINATION FORMS FOR THIS ELECTION.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY POTENTIAL CANDIDATE TO FAIL TO GET CERTIFIED AS A CANDIDATE ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD PREPARED NOMINATION FORMS WHICH WERE VERY SIMPLE. -- MORE
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ASKED WHETHER HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE +FREE WINS+ OBTAINED THIS TIME COMPARED WITH THE 1982 GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID THE BN OBTAINED MORE SEATS UNOPPOSED IN THE LAST ELECTION BECAUSE OF THE NOMINATION FORMS THEN WHICH WERE DIFFICULT TO FILL, THUS RESULTING IN MANY REJECTIONS DUE TO TECHNICAL ERRORS.

HE SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS CONTESTING ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY AND STATE SEATS DESPITE THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING SEVERAL WHICH WERE OPPOSITION STRONGHOLDS.

THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WANTED TO PROVE TO THE PEOPLE THAT IT WAS CONTESTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION SOLELY IN THEIR INTERESTS, UNLIKE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WHOSE CANDIDATES WERE CONTESTING TO BECOME ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

THE BN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE IN EVERY ELECTION HAD SHOWN THEIR ABILITY TO WORK FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND DID NOT HAVE MOTIVES FOR SELF GAIN, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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