

MAHATHIR - PANTAI MERDEKA

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 25 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WILL FARE VERY WELL IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, JUDGING BY THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS CANDIDATE IN THE JUST CONCLUDED PANTAI MERDEKA BY-ELECTION.

COMMENTING ON THE VICTORY OF BN CANDIDATE SENATOR HAJI SHUAIB LAZIM IN THE BY-ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +ALTHOUGH THE BN OBTAINED A REDUCED MAJORITY, IT IS A VICTORY AGAINST PAS AND ITS PARTNERS, THE DAP, SEMANGAT 46 AND CERTAIN QUARTERS.+

+IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION, IT WAS A FIGHT ONLY BETWEEN THE BN AND PAS,+ HE SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIR FORCE (RMAF) STATION IN SUNGAI BESI HERE ON HIS RETURN FROM PATTAYA, THAILAND TODAY.

IN THE BY-ELECTION, SENATOR SHUAIB WON WITH A MAJORITY OF 3,409 VOTES WHEN HE POLLED 10,384 VOTES AS AGAINST 6,975 OBTAINED BY HIS OPPONENT FROM PAS, DATUK HAJI MOHAMED MUSLIM OTHMAN. IN 1986, THE BN WON THE STATE SEAT WITH A MAJORITY OF 5,166 VOTES.

TO A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT THE BN VICTORY WOULD CONTINUE IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE.
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HE SAID THE VICTORY CLEARLY SHOWED THAT VARIOUS ACCUSATIONS LEVELLED AT THE GOVERNMENT BY PAS AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES LEADERS HAD NOT ERODED THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE BN GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MANY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN BECAUSE THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD WIN.

ASKED ON PAS INTENTION TO CHALLENGE THE RESULT OF THE BY-ELECTION IN COURT, HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THEM.

(PAS HAD QUESTIONED THE CANDIDACY OF SENATOR HAJI SHUAIB WHOM THEY BELIEVED TO BE A DECLARED BANKRUPT AND THUS WAS NOT ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BERKATA: +WE HAVE WON AND THAT IS A FACT.+

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BN WOULD ABIDE BY WHATEVER DECISION MADE BY THE COURT ON THE MATTER.-- MORE.
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TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO TAKE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING VARIOUS ACCUSATIONS INCLUDING THAT WHICH APPEARED IN THE DAP NEWSPAPER, +THE ROCKET+, HE SAID THE PEOPLE COULD JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH IN THEM.

HE SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT BROUGHT THESE PEOPLE TO COURT ALL SORTS OF ACCUSATIONS WOULD AGAIN BE LEVELLED AT THE GOVERNMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE MANY FALSE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND THIS WAS NOT PROPER.

IF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MALPRACTICES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THEY SHOULD USE THE PROPER CHANNEL TO SUBMIT THEIR COMPLAINTS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA.