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MAHATHIR-KELANTAN R R R  
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KOTA BAHARU, APRIL 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS REITERATED THAT HE IS CONFIDENT KELANTAN WILL REMAIN UNDER BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) RULE AFTER THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE BN HAD FURTHER CONSOLIDATED ITS POSITION IN THE STATE AND COULD EXPECT A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE NEXT POLL.

ON CLAIMS THAT KELANTAN IS AN OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID :+ WE'LL WAIT TILL THE ELECTION+.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH THE KELANTAN UMNO YOUTH AND STATE LIAISON COMMITTEES HERE.

HE LATER BROKE FAST WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB AND YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK WHO IS UMNO YOUTH CHIEF. -- MORE

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ON WHETHER RECENT PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE STATE UMNO YOUTH COULD UNDERMINE BN'S CHANCES IN KELANTAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PARTY WAS CAPABLE OF SETTLING ITS PROBLEMS AND THE MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, UMNO SHOULD NOT THINK IT HAD ATTAINED A 100 PERCENT LEVEL OF PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

+AS LONG AS THERE IS TIME, WE MUST MAKE PREPARATIONS BECAUSE WHEN WE THINK WE ARE ALREADY PREPARED, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING THAT IS OVERLOOKED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH TRIVIAL MATTERS TO THE EXTENT OF FORGETTING THE MORE IMPORTANT IDEALS.

+AT TIMES, WHEN PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PARTY IDEALS, IT IS GIVEN TO A PARTICULAR AREA OR CANDIDATES,+ HE SAID.

+WE MUST FURTHER THE PARTY'S CAUSE AND NOT THAT OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE PARTY WINS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID AT THIS EVENING'S MEETING, HE EXPLAINED ABOUT UMNO'S REAL IDEALS TO THE STATE UMNO YOUTH AND STATE LIAISON COMMITTEES.-- BERNAMA

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