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MAHATHIR-PEOPLE  
BM

JITRA, SEPT 20 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE WILL GIVE THE BARISAN NASIONAL THEIR MANDATE IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BY WAY OF RETURNING THE FAVOUR FOR HAVING ENJOYED THE FRUITS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE ATTEMPTS OF CERTAIN GROUPS TO INFLUENCE THEM INTO OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY REALISE THAT THE PROSPERITY AND GOOD LIFE THEY ENJOY IS THE RESULT OF EFFORTS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE FEEL GRATEFUL, THERE WILL BE PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID AT THE +TURUN KE BENDANG+ (TO THE PADI FIELD) CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL PADI AND RICE AUTHORITY (LPN) AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH BATU 20, MEGAT DEWA, NEAR HERE.

+THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGES MALAYSIA AS A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY WHICH NO OTHER CAN MATCH,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, STRESSING THAT THIS SITUATION SHOULD CONTINUE.

+WE MUST EXPRESS THANKS 100 TIMES A DAY FOR HAVING BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY ALL THESE BENEFITS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD FACILITATE THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK BY SUPPORTING ALL PROGRAMMES WHICH HE SAID WERE FOR THE COMMON BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE BENEFITS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY, SUCH AS THE INCREASE IN PADI SUBSIDY, WERE INTENDED TO MAKE LIFE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR THE PEOPLE AND WERE NOT A PLOY TO FISH FOR VOTES IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION AS CLAIMED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

HE SAID THE SUBSIDY WAS NOT ONLY ENJOYED BY FARMERS. WHEN THEY SPENT THE SUBSIDY, OTHERS WOULD ALSO BENEFIT, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE LIFE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR THE PEOPLE, AND IF IT ANNOUNCED BENEFITS AROUND THE TIME OF AN ELECTION IT WAS DONE IN SINCERITY AND NOT TO FISH FOR VOTES.

THE PEOPLE KNEW THIS, AND THAT WAS WHY THEY FAVOURED A GOVERNMENT LED BY THE PARTY WHICH HAD RULED SINCE INDEPENDENCE 33 YEARS AGO, HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON LPN, HE SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD INTRODUCED MANY CHANGES AND AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS WAS ITS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY FARMERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF AT ONE TIME HE HAD RECEIVED MANY MEMORANDUMS ON THE LPN, THE FARMERS WERE NOW NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE AUTHORITY.

+IF THIS IS AN INDICATOR THAT THE LPN HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE FARMERS, THEN IT IS A SIGN OF SUCCESS AND THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM, A SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE VARIOUS EFFORTS OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, SUCH AS INTRODUCING +PASAR TANI+ (FARMERS MARKETS) AND +DRINK YOUNG COCONUT WATER+ CAMPAIGN, WHICH HE SAID HAD BENEFITED THE FARMING COMMUNITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMED ALI, IS ON A TWO-DAY VISIT TO HIS PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF KUBANG PASU BEGINNING TODAY. --  
BERNAMA

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