

MAHATHIR - VICTORY

BM

KOTA BAHARU, SEPT 29, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WILL BE RETURNED TO POWER IN KELANTAN IF THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS HELD NOW.

+I AM SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT OF MY PRESENT VISIT AND I HAVE FOUND THE BN STRENGTH GAINING MOMENTUM. THIS GOES FOR GUA MUSANG AS WELL.+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE 16TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE KELANTAN BRANCH OF THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AT DEWAN SENI HERE TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WOUND UP HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO KELANTAN TODAY.

HE FELT THAT THERE WERE ONE OR TWO AREAS IN THE STATE WHERE BN HAD TO WORK HARDER BUT GENERALLY THE BN COULD WIN.

ASKED WHETHER BN COULD CAPTURE SEMANGAT 46 LEADER, TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH'S GUA MUSANG PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +CERTAINLY, I AM STRIVING TO CAPTURE GUA MUSANG, IF NOT WHY WORK SO HARD.+

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OPENING THE MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN LIGHTER VEIN THAT THOUGH BN HAD YET TO ANNOUNCE ITS LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION THERE WERE SOME WHO HAD BEEN PLACING ORDERS FOR BUSHJACKETS.

+NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT FOR IT IS THE TAILORS WHO WILL MAKE PROFITS,+ HE SAID, DRAWING LAUGHTER FROM THE CROWD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE GLAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN ITS EFFORTS TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AMONG BUMIPUTERAS AND NON-BUMIPUTERAS, HAD SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE ACHIEVEMENT WAS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE NOT EVERY COUNTRY HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE AN 8.5 PER CENT ECONOMIC GROWTH LIKE MALAYSIA HAD DONE, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO RAISE BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY FROM ONE PER CENT TO 19 PER CENT, HE SAID. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) EXPIRING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR WAS TO ACHIEVE 30 PER CENT BUMIPUTERA OWNERSHIP.

HE ADDED: +THAT IS THE OBJECTIVE, BUT WHETHER THE OBJECTIVE WAS ACHIEVED OR NOT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.+

HE SAID THERE WERE STILL MANY NEW IDEAS WHICH WOULD PROFIT BUMIPUTERAS BUT THEIR ATTITUDE SHOULD ALSO CHANGE.

THEY SHOULD BE PATIENT AND DISCIPLINED IN PLANNING THEIR BUSINESS WHICH SHOULD BEGIN IN A SMALL WAY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF PAST MISTAKES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ADVISED THE PEOPLE NOT TO RUSH TO BECOME RICH TO THE EXTENT OF DOING THINGS WITHOUT CAREFUL DELIBERATION.

THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO INVESTED IN SO-CALLED GET-QUICK-RICH SCHEMES BUT WHEN THEY LOST THEIR MONEY, THEY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPENSATE THEM OTHERWISE THEY WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA