

D861

R E747 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GOVERNMENT  
BM

BATU PAHAT, OCT 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WANTS TO SECURE AT LEAST A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION BECAUSE WITHOUT A STRONG MANDATE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE RESPECTED.

HE SAID HE WAS NOT TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ANYONE BUT IN COUNTRIES WITH WEAK GOVERNMENTS, RIOTS WERE COMMON.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A STRONG GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE PEACE TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING LEADERS OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES AT THE RESIDENCE OF WELFARE MINISTER DATUK MUSTAFFA MOHAMED AT SERI GADING HERE.

ADDRESSING THE MEETING, HE SAID THE BN FACED THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION IN A STRONG AND SOLID POSITION.

+WE HAVE PROVEN THAT ALL ALLEGATIONS BY THE OPPOSITION ARE WILD AND BASELESS,+ HE SAID.

1613MST 10 10 90

D875

R E754 AAE  
MAHATHIR-GOVERNMENT 2 BATU PAHAT

AS SUCH HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD WIN THE GENERAL ELECTION BECAUSE OF WEAK OPPOSITION PARTIES.

HE DESCRIBED THE DENIAL BY PAS LEADERS THAT THE PARTY WAS DROPPING THE TERM +ISLAMIC STATE+ FROM ITS MANIFESTO AS PURELY A + POLITICAL DENIAL.+

HE SAID REMOVAL OF THE TERM SHOWED THAT THE PARTY WAS IGNORING PAS' OWN IDEALS.

HE SAID THE DAP TOO, WHICH IN THE PAST HAD BEEN VERY VOCAL IN CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF THE NON-MALAYS, HAD NOW COMPROMISED AND WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH A PARTY AT ODDS WITH NON-BUMIPUTERA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD HAD DECIDED NOT SEEK REELECTION TO DEFEND THE JOHOR BAHARU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT.

DATUK SHAHRIR'S DECISION MUST BE RESPECTED, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE POLLING DAY ON OCT 21 A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN STATES OBSERVING FRIDAY AS WEEKEND HOLIDAY AS HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT EVERYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE.-- BERNAMA  
1643MST 10 10 90