

MAHATHIR-VICTORY  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 12 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WHICH WON TWO PARLIAMENTARY SEATS UNCONTESTED AT THE OUTSET OF THE GENERAL ELECTION, IS CONFIDENT IT WILL GAIN AT LEAST A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE OPPOSITION PARTIES APPEARED DISORIENTED IN FIELDING THEIR CANDIDATES, LEADING TO CASES WHERE THEIR MEMBERS DID NOT CONTEST UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTY SYMBOLS.

+WE ARE CONFIDENT OF A TWO-THIRD VICTORY, AT LEAST, BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE AGAINST A POTPOURRI OF PARTIES (PARTI ROJAK),+ HE TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER UNVEILING THE COALITION'S ELECTION MANIFESTO AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE THEME OF THE 11-PARTY RULING COALITION'S MANIFESTO IS +TOWARDS A PEACEFUL, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS MALAYSIA+. APART FROM THE TWO SEATS, ANOTHER 178 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS ARE BEING CONTESTED IN THE OCT 20/21 ELECTION.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE CONFUSION WHICH REIGNED AMONG THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, CITED AN INSTANCE WHERE A FORMER PAS MEMBER WHO JOINED HAMIM WAS CONTESTING UNDER THE SEMANGAT 46 BANNER. -- MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS DEFENDING THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT IN KEDAH, IS BEING CHALLENGED BY HAMIM PRESIDENT DATUK SUDIN WAHAB WHO IS ADOPTING THE SEMANGAT 46 SYMBOL.

HE ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES FROM THE ALL MALAYSIA INDIAN PROGRESSIVE FRONT (IPF), LED BY OUSTED MIC LEADER, M.G.PANDITHAN, WHO WERE USING THE SEMANGAT 46 SYMBOL IN SOME AREAS AND DAP SYMBOL IN OTHERS.

+THEY MUST MAKE UP THEIR MIND IF THEY WANT TO BE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE BN,+ HE SAID, WHILE EXPRESSING DOUBTS AS TO HOW THE OPPOSITION FRONT COULD SERVE AS A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE BN.

HE ADDED: +BEFORE GETTING ANYTHING, THEY ALREADY CANNOT SEAT AT ONE TABLE... IMAGINE IF TENGGU RAZALEIGH (SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT) IS CHAIRING THEIR CABINET MEETING.

+PAS SITS ON THIS SIDE FACING THE OTHER WAY, DAP ON THE OTHER SIDE FACING ANOTHER WAY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OPPOSITION FRONT ALSO REFLECTED CONFUSION IN THEIR STRUGGLE BECAUSE OF THEIR MYRIAD MANIFESTOES -- UNLIKE THE BN'S COMMON MANIFESTO.

ACCORDING TO HIM, PAS, FOR EXAMPLE, TRIED TO WOO CHINESE VOTES BY TELLING CHINESE NEWSPAPERS THAT THEY HAD DROPPED THEIR ASPIRATIONS TO FORM AN ISLAMIC STATE BUT THEY DENIED IT WHEN ADDRESSING THE MALAY NEWSPAPERS.

HE SAID WITH JUST ONE MANIFESTO, BN SHOWED THE PEOPLE THAT ITS COMPONENT PARTIES HAD ONE COMMON TARGET AND THAT THERE WERE NO DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR OBJECTIVES WHEN FORMING THE GOVERNMENT.

+I AM CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT FOR OUR COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS, WE MUST HAVE PEACE, STABILITY AND THROUGH THIS, PROSPERITY,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PAS AND DAP WERE MERELY PRETENDING AND NOT TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN THEY CLAIMED THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY PACT. BOTH PARTIES DID NOT WANT TO BE OPEN ABOUT THEIR COOPERATION FOR FEAR THEY WOULD LOSE FAVOUR AMONG THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPPORTERS.

THE PACT BETWEEN PAS AND DAP WAS CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE FIELDING OF THEIR CANDIDATES BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT CONTESTING AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ANY CONSTITUENCY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA