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MAHATHIR - MAJORITY
BM

KAJANG, OCT 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD IS CONFIDENT THAT BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) WILL WIN MORE THAN A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER MEETING WITH BN CANDIDATES HERE TODAY, HE SAID BASED ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE NOTED IN HIS RECENT VISITS TO THE STATES, BN WAS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING A LANDSLIDE VICTORY.

+I DONT WISH TO MAKE A COMPARISON (WITH THE RESULTS OF 1986 ELECTION), BUT GOD WILLING, WE WILL WIN MORE THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THIS ELECTION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT FIRST HE ANTICIPATED SOME PROBLEMS IN BN ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND THE DROPPING OF SOME CANDIDATES BUT THE THE PROBLEMS DID NOT EMERGE +BECAUSE OF THE COOPERATION FROM ALL QUARTERS.+

+AS WE CAN SEE TODAY, EVERYTHING IS FINE... EVEN TWO FORMER MENTERIS BESAR (DATUK HORMAT RAFIE AND DATUK AHMAD RAZALI) AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT CHOSEN ARE WITH US WORKING TOGETHER,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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R E152 AAE
MAHATHIR - MAJORITY 2 KAJANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED THE CASE OF MIC VICE-PRESIDENT, DATUK K.PATHMANABAN, WHO WAS WORKING HARD TO ENSURE VICTORY FOR MIC CANDIDATES ALTHOUGH HE WAS DROPPED FROM CONTESTING THE TELUK KEMANG SEAT.

+WHEN THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN THE PARTY, OUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE ELECTION ARE BRIGHTER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE BN POSITION IN KELANTAN HAD IMPROVED FURTHER IN VIEW OF A SPLIT IN PAS MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR SEMANGAT 46 AS A RESULT OF DISSATISFACTION OVER THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND THE DROPPING OF THE PARTY'S ISLAMIC 'STATE CONCEPT.

IN THE CASE OF THE DAP, HE SAID ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG'S TACTICS IN PULAU PINANG WOULD NOT WORK AS +THE PEOPLE THERE ARE NOT STUPID AND THEY ARE NOT ABOUT TO DUMP DR LIM CHONG EU+.

THE DAP SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO IS CONTESTING AGAINST DR LIM FOR THE PADANG KOTA STATE SEAT, WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD LOSE TO THE CHIEF MINISTER.

+IT'S ONLY A STRATEGY TO FISH FOR SYMPATHY VOTES... AND IT WILL NOT WORK IN PENANG,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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R E154 AAE
MAHATHIR - MAJORITY 3 KAJANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CABINET MINISTERS WHOSE IDEAS HAD BEEN OF GREAT HELP TO THE GOVERNMENT IN PLANNING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

ON MCA PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK'S STATEMENT THAT MCA WOULD SINK OR SWIM WITH UMNO, HE SAID UMNO WOULD ALSO DO LIKEWISE, AND +IN FACT, WE HAVE ALREADY DONE SO FOR A LONG TIME+.

IN HIS SPEECH AT THE FUNCTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OPPOSITION HAD RUN OUT OF ISSUES FOR THEIR CAMPAIGNS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WHICH BENEFITED EVERYONE.

HE HIT OUT AT OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO WERE ONCE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT NOW. HE DESCRIBED THEM AS UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE.

SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB AND HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DATUK LEE KIM SAI WERE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION.

OPENING THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH SEKSYEN 1, BANDAR BARU BANGI, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED EDUCATIONISTS TO HELP INSTIL THE SPIRIT OF +THANKFULNESS+ IN THE STUDENTS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT FORGET THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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MAHATHIR - MAJORITY 4 KAJANG

HE SAID THERE WERE STUDENTS WHO WERE UNGRATEFUL AND CAMPAIGNED TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADDED THAT THE COUNTRY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD BEEN ADJUSTED TO THE NATION'S NEEDS TO CREATE MORE SKILLED WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL.

WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS ATTRACTING MORE FOREIGN INVESTORS, THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INDUSTRIES AND NOT LEAVE IT TO THE FOREIGNERS TO OPERATE.

HE SAID: +WE HAVE INTRODUCED VARIOUS SUBJECTS TO RAISE THE SKILLS OF STUDENTS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO WORK IN INDUSTRIES BUT ALSO INVENT NEW THINGS LIKE COMPUTERS AND MACHINERY.

+WE ALSO WANT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SKILLED MANAGERS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE BUMIPUTERAS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL ALLOCATION TO EDUCATION AND FOR THE SIX UNIVERSITIES ALONE THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROVIDING ABOUT \$600 MILLION A YEAR.

HE ALSO ASSURED NON-BUMIPUTERAS THAT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY WOULD ACCORD THEM FULL FREEDOM TO USE THEIR LANGUAGES AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THEIR SCHOOLS. -- BERNAMA

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