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POLLING-MAHATHIR
BM

ALOR SETAR, OCT 21 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED VOTERS NOT TO LISTEN TO RUMOURS SPREAD BY CERTAIN GROUPS WITH THE INTENTION OF SCARING THEM INTO NOT VOTING.

+THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. COME OUT AND VOTE BECAUSE WE HAVE THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN PEACE DURING AND AFTER POLLING,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE BEFORE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR AFTER CASTING HIS VOTE AND VISITING SEVERAL BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) OPERATION CENTRES IN THE STATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE POLICE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES SMOOTHLY AND EFFECTIVELY AT ALL THE POLLING CENTRES.

+THE RUMOURS ARE EFFORTS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO SCARE BN SUPPORTERS INTO NOT COMING OUT TO VOTE, PARTICULARLY THE URBAN RESIDENTS,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THESE GROUPS HOPED THAT BY THIS ACTION, SUPPORT FOR BN WOULD BE REDUCED.

+I HAVE HEARD STORIES THAT RIOTS AND OTHER UNTOWARD INCIDENTS WOULD SUPPOSEDLY OCCUR AND I HAVE ALSO COME TO KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO STOCK UP ON FOOD IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH EVENTUALITIES,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER. -- MORE

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HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CONDUCT OF POLLING AT THE VARIOUS STATIONS AND HAD FOUND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REPORTS OF UNTOWARD INCIDENTS UNTIL NOW.

+I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER AND VOTERS SHOULD NOT BE EASILY MISLED BY THE THREATS AND RUMOURS BEING SPREAD,+ HE ADDED.

ON HIS CONTEST FOR THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OPPOSITION THERE WAS FAR MORE WEAKER THIS TIME THAN IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

+AT THE VERY LEAST, I DON'T ENVISION THEY CAN WIN IN KUBANG PASU. THIS IS MY OBSERVATION,+ HE SAID. THE PRIME MINISTER IS BEING CHALLENGED BY HAMIM PRESIDENT DATUK SUDIN WAHAB WHO IS CONTESTING ON A PARTI SEMANGAT 46 TICKET.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT HE SAW THAT BN BOOTHS OUTSIDE POLLING CENTRES HAD MORE VOTERS THAN BOOTHS OF THE OTHER PARTIES.

IN KUBANG PASU ITSELF, THE SEMANGAT 46 AND PAS BOOTHS WERE UNMANNED, HE ADDED.

+IF AT ALL THEY WERE MANNED, THERE WERE ONLY TWO OR THREE OF THEM AND MOST VOTERS HANDED THEIR HANDBILLS TO WORKERS AT THE BN BOOTHS. THIS REFLECTS A VICTORY FOR BN,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER. -- BERNAMA

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