

D382

R E107 ENG

MAHATHIR - PAIRIN

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PENALISE THE PEOPLE IN SABAH ALTHOUGH THE STATE WAS LED BY AN OPPOSITION GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) HAD OBVIOUSLY MISCALCULATED. +THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPPORTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT BY JOINING UP WITH PARTI SEMANGAT 46,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF SABAH HAD BEEN FED WITH PROPAGANDA TO HATE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM TO ADOPT SUCH AN ATTITUDE BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD HELPED THEM A LOT, HE TOLD TV MALAYSIA.

ON THE BN DEFEAT IN KELANTAN, THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT THE PEOPLE THERE WANTED SOMEONE FROM THE STATE TO HEAD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THEY BELIEVE THAT BY GIVING A BIG WIN TO THE OPPOSITION THEY COULD STRENGTHEN THE KELANTAN-BASED OPPOSITION PARTY.

HE ALSO SAID THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 DID NOT HAVE MANY FOLLOWERS AND THE PARTY MERELY ENHANCED THE SUPPORT FOR PAS IN KELANTAN.

+IN OTHER PLACES IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY SUPPORT AND IT APPEARS THAT PAS IS NOT SO WILLING TO SUPPORT PARTI SEMANGAT 46,+ HE ADDED.

-- BERNAMA

0637MST 22 10 90