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Mahathir-Umno

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malays through Umno must continue to be the pillar and foundation for the Malaysian government in the interests of the strength and stability of a nation formed on the basis of a coalition government.

Opening the Umno general assembly here today, the prime minister stressed that the Malays had no intention to dominate the other races and that this was proven when Umno fielded candidates in 84 parliamentary constituencies when there were 96 Malay-majority constituencies.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said a coalition government could not be strong and lasting if there was no one party that was strong enough to be its foundation.

+If all parties in a coalition are of equal strength, a struggle for the top place will occur. And this will certainly make such a coalition government unstable and weak,+ he said.

He cited the superficial cooperation between PAS and Semangat 46, both members of the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (Angkatan), and the hard fight to have the post of a deputy menteri besar in Kelantan after Angkatan had formed the state government. — more

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Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

If Gagasan (comprising Semangat 46, DAP, Parti Rakyat Malaysia and Parti Bersatu Sabah) and APU had formed the Federal Government, the tussle for posts would have become more intense, he said.

Probably, the post of deputy prime minister will have to be increased to five or six, he said, adding that the prime minister would be weak and would have to beg for support from the component parties.

In his 46-page speech, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said coalition governments of countries without a strong base have always failed, adding that if the Angkatan and Gagasan were to govern Malaysia there would be no stability.

+Sabah and Kelantan will be swept away under the weight of their own parochialism,+ he said to the applause of the 1,500 delegates.

On the attempt by PAS to form a PAS-style Islamic government, he said this would only become a source of conflict that would undermine the security and stability of the country.

He was grateful that the majority of Malaysians are right thinking people and did not want to gamble with their future. He said those who did not vote for the BN should realise and be thankful that the supporters of the BN would continue to save them. — Bernama

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