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Mahathir-Pas (Rptn)

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KUALA, LUMPUR, Nov 30, (Bernama) -- The Federal government will not go out of its way to help the state government in Kelantan because it was up to PAS to fulfill all the promises it made in the last general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He knew that any form of assistance will be used by PAS to prove that there is nothing to lose in electing PAS as the government, + the Prime Minister said when opening the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He added that even during the election, state government officers who sided with the opposition, claimed that the assistance provided by the Federal government was from them.

+They managed to convince the people that even without the Federal government there will be no problem because they can get financial assistance from the president of Parti Semangat 46, + he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, also said that the claim that Brunei would help the Kelantan government was not true and the Sultan of Brunei himself had denied that he would provide whatever assistance.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir met the Sultan at Istana Shariff Ali here when he later paid a private visit to Malaysia a few days ago. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said overtures by Kelantan Menteri Besar, Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to be on friendly terms was meaningless other factions in PAS and +Harakah+, the party organ, have unceasingly criticised the Barisan Nasional, Umno and the Federal government.

He added: +For this reason, the Federal government will not help the PAS government to succeed.+

Thousands of observers watched the opening ceremony on closed-circuit television set up at all corners and levels of the PWTC.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno was willing to accept the defeat in Kelantan in the last general election.

He added: We are willing to let Kelantan be under PAS for a lot more many years if this is the wish of the majority of people of Kelantan.

+We believe that if the PAS government succeeds in making Kelantan a corridor to Mecca, a joyous state with contented people, then the people of other states will elect PAS to government in their states.+

He added that on the other hand, if PAS failed, he hoped the people would be made more aware of the false promises made by PAS and reject it.

He said: +We are very said with their tactics to fish for votes. All kinds of unreasonable promises were made to the voters, promises which they cannot possibly fulfill if they had won. -- more

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+We cannot tell if this victory was due to the angels siding with them as they claim or if it is a test so that the people can see how they have been duped. Let us all see.+

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was true that certain matters came under the jurisdiction of the Federal government. But there were promises made by PAS relating to local taxes and licences which could be fulfilled by the state government.

He added: +We would like them to abolish these taxes. Do not give the excuse that the promises were made by the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) while the Kelantan government is the PAS government.

+PAS is a member of APU and the promises of APU are also the promises of PAS.+

He said PAS was also bound, directly and indirectly, to the promises of the Gagasan Rakyat.

+As a political party which claims to adhere strongly to the teachings of Islam, PAS should fulfill its promises,+ he added.

He said the Federal government did not intend to prevent the PAS government in Kelantan from taking action in matters which were within the jurisdiction of the Federal government if those matters were not subject to certain laws. -- more

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Mahathir-Pas 4 Kuala Lumpur

He added: +For example, if PAS feels that government schools are secular schools, the school children in Kelantan can go to non-secular schools to be built by the PAS government.

+Licences of business places for dealings which PAS regards as +Haram+ can be withdrawn by PAS, including certain financial institutions and pawn-shops.+

On women, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the women of PAS do not have equal rights to work with the men.

+If it is wrong for them to work at night outside of their homes with the men, it follows that it is also wrong for them to work during the daytime,+ he added. The Kelantan government recently proposed to bar women in the state from working at night.

He also questioned the promise of PAS president, Haji Fadzil Noor, to cooperate with the DAP state assemblyman in the Kedah Legislative Assembly after winning the election although the party claimed that cooperating with infidels would make Muslims infidels as well.

+What is wrong cooperating with Umno or are they willing to cooperate with the Federal government only when they need to?+ he asked. -- Bernama

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