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OPPOSITION FRONT PROOF OF DEMOCRACY IN MALAYSIA, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-opposition

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the registration of the +Gagasan Rakyat+ is proof of the multi-party system of democracy in the country.

The prime minister said it was the prerogative of the opposition parties to form the coalition.

However, it would not pose a problem to the Barisan Nasional, he told reporters after attending the Maal Hijrah 1413 celebrations at Stadium Negara here.

He was asked about the approval of the +Gagasan Rakyat's+ registration and whether the coalition would pose a competition to the BN in the elections.

Meanwhile, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said that besides the +Gagasan Rakyat+, the registration of the +Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah+ had also been approved. -- more

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Mahathir-opposition 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

+Both were registered after meeting the conditions,+ he told Bernama at the same function.

However, he was unable to say when Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah's registration was approved.

Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah comprises Malay and Muslim-based parties namely PAS, Semangat 46, Hamim and Berjasa which had merged to oppose the BN in the 1990 general election and several by-elections in Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu after that.

Gagasan Rakyat was launched by Semangat 46 together with the DAP, Indian Progressive Front (IPF), Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) and the Malaysian Solidarity Party (MSP) before the last general election in a bid to unseat the BN in the west coast states of peninsular Malaysia. -- Bernama

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