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CHANGE GOVERNMENT TO GET MORE AID, MAHATHIR TELLS KELANTAN PEOPLE

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MACHANG, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told the people in Kelantan that one way to ensure they receive more Federal aid was to replace the PAS-led state government with a Barisan Nasional one.

The Prime Minister said that in the next general election the people should elect a government that was on the same wavelength with the Federal government to ensure aid could be channelled to them more systematically.

Whatever Federal aid given to Kelantan was not for the state government but for the people and the aid should not be made a political issue, he added.

The Federal government always acted fairly and wished to see the innocent people of Kelantan get the same treatment as people in other states, he told a press conference after opening the Kelantan Umno Convention here.

Dr Mahathir said he did not want the state government to mislead the people on the question of Federal financial aid by claiming that allocations would be forthcoming even if they did not vote for BN. -- more

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He called on the Kelantan people to strengthen unity and realise that whatever facilities they enjoyed were the fruits of Umno's struggle.

He said the Umno convention theme +Bersatu Menyelamatkan Kelantan+ (United to Save Kelantan) should inspire people from all walks of life to enhance unity.

He urged Umno members to continue to explain the party's struggle with a view to enhancing unity because +certain quarters are trying to split the people+.

Asked how unity could guarantee federal government contributions if the state government was on a different track, he said: +The government has to be replaced to facilitate the channelling of aid.+

Dr Mahathir said Umno had its own body to ensure that the Kelantan government did not use Federal government allocations for political ends by distributing the aid among its supporters.

Dr Mahathir, who is Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee chief, said although unity, among state Umno leaders and members had improved, it was not time yet for him to relinquish the post to deputy liaison chief Senator Annuar Musa.

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He still had to hold the post because ties between the Federal and state governments were not strong and the situation would further complicate extension of aid from the Federal government, he added.

On PAS' allegations that his and the Federal government's actions were unIslamic, the Prime Minister said people who claimed to be more Islamic than others were doing so to hide the truth and using religion for political interests.

The Islamic world had acknowledged that Malaysia was the best model of a Muslim country, he added.

He also expressed satisfaction that the Proton Catalyst (known as Proton Iswara locally) had won two gold awards at the British Motor Show in London two weeks after its launching in Britain:

+The achievement is a sign of recognition of our ability to manufacture cars that are not only on par but better than those made by others, he said. -- Bernama

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