

▼09/06/17-50MST

CNS5002

U GE 09-06 00182 RA081

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Mahathir-election

GENERAL ELECTION CAN BE HELD AT ANY TIME, SAYS PM

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MUAR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is no obstacle to holding the general election any time now.

The prime minister said the climate in the country now was most conducive in terms of economic growth, political stability and rural and urban development.

"All indicators are very encouraging for an election," he told reporters after attending a lunch hosted by the Johor Barisan Nasional at the Dewan Jubli Intan here.

However, he said, the government would not call an election based only on these indicators but wanted to use the full five-year term (until late next year) to implement its duties.

"We have been given a term of five years. We do not want to hold an election as a game. We want to use the term to implement our duties. If elections are held frequently, they will cost the government (financially)," he said. -- more

JO MGN

▼09/06/17-08MST

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Mahathir-election 2 Muar

Dr Mahathir said he did not want everybody to depend only on these indicators for a general election.

"We do not play with the elections ... such as calling an election when we feel we can win. If that's the case, then we can have elections every year," he said.

Asked whether the next general election would be held soon based on his reference to it in his speech, the prime minister said: "You can assume that it is near, and you can assume that it is not ... but the important thing is that we in the BN must be prepared for any possibility."

He said the BN is always prepared, as was the case in the by-election in the Shah Bandaraya state constituency in Klang when the coalition activated its party machinery for a victory.

However, he said, the BN machinery must be more active in a general election because at stake is the formation of a government. -- more

JO MGN

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CNS5100

U GE 09-06 00138 RA083

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Mahathir-election 3 (last) Muar

Dr Mahathir was asked about the BN's chances in Kelantan, which is ruled by a PAS-led coalition, and he replied that the people there realised the BN's capability in administering the state in the past.

The BN's loss in the state in the last general election (in 1990) was owing to disunity in the party and not because the people believed in the struggles of the opposition party, he said.

Asked about the list of Umno candidates for the next general election, Dr Mahathir said it would only be determined at the last minute to avert any disunity caused by dissatisfaction of those not picked.

He advised Umno members to place the party's interests above their own.

-- Bernama

▼09/06/18-50MST

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Mahathir-election 4 Muar (reopens)

On the large number of Umno members who had not registered as voters, Dr Mahathir urged them to do so as soon as possible.

"I urge all Umno members to register as soon as possible to prove their loyalty and responsibility to the party," he said.

Speaking at the function, Dr Mahathir said the people should elect a government which was capable of administering the country well even though there were groups which tried to raise the question of dissatisfaction among the people in their efforts to take over from the country's present leadership.

He hit out at certain groups which faulted the Federal Government for not helping them.

These groups had failed to administer their own state well and on top of that had slandered the Federal Government by accusing it of sending troops to help the Serbs against the Bosnian people, Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said he was raising the matter not as part of the election campaign as "I myself don't know when to call for the election...I haven't got the inspiration yet...no sign yet but it seems there are signs judging from the welcome and applause for me." he said. -- more

OM AAM

▼09/06/19-10MST

U GE 09-06 00150 RF906

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Mahathir-election 5 Muar

"I cannot announce the election date today but all party members should be prepared to face the election," he said.

He reminded party leaders at branch and divisional levels that their pledge to the party would only be meaningful if they abided by the party decision on the question of selecting candidates and other decisions.

Dr Mahathir said candidates would be selected on their abilities and they could be removed if they did not discharge their responsibilities well.

He said Umno had a big responsibility of ensuring that Malaysia continued to progress as it was the backbone of the Barisan Nasional.

Umno's success in heading the government over the last 37 years would not have been possible without the discipline and willingness to safeguard the party, he said. -- more

OM AAM

▼09/06/19-20MST

CNS5232

U GE 09-06 00100 RF907

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Mahathir-election 6 (last) Muar

Meanwhile Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Johor Barisan Nasional had mobilised its entire machinery to face the general election.

Muhyiddin said the Johor BN was confident that it would sweep all 20 Parliamentary seats and recapture the four state seats from the opposition.

"We are only waiting for the general election signal," he said at a Johor BN reception for the Prime Minister here.

... of the Johor BN was on very strong ground. -- Bernama