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Mahathir-election

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IF ELECTION IS NOT HELD SOON, SAYS PM

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MELAKA, June 13⁹⁴ (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders should not be disappointed if the general election is not held now although they have made preparations for it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN Chairman, said although many people felt that the prevailing peaceful environment in the country was conducive for holding polls, the general election need not necessarily be called now.

"I would like to announce that the election will be held within this period...between now and end of December 1995," he said to laughter and applause from some 2,000 people who received him at the Batu Berendam airport here on his arrival for a one-day visit to Melaka.

Present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, state Exco members, heads of department and leaders of BN components.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, said political leaders should continue with efforts to develop the country as a lot more remained to be done. -- more

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"Developing the country is a long-term struggle. After we are developed we want to continue developing and all this is for the people, and not the leaders. Leaders are entrusted with the task of coordinating (development) and not projecting themselves or becoming dignitaries.

We are all the same. The only difference between leaders and the people is in terms of duties but we are all democratic," he said.

Dr Mahathir said leaders and the people should always preserve the prevailing peace to ensure the country's continued development.

"There is no point in becoming the leaders of a country without peace as we will be despised."

If everyone could play their part to preserve the peace the country had been enjoying since independence, people who came from afar to invest would be happy because they could reap returns beyond their expectation in 10 years' time, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the country's success and peace were the result of the people's harmonious way of living. --- more

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"We should not bring pressure to bear because this will not give any benefit if such pressures could lead to riots and place the country in an unpleasant situation.

We could not afford to be like some countries which resorted to extremism and pressured certain sectors like religious groups to the extent of creating an unhealthy situation in the country," he said.

He said: "We also do not want to become like leaders of certain countries who denounced suppression before becoming leaders but resorted to suppressing others after gaining power."

Dr Mahathir reminded the people and leaders to be thankful for the peace the country had been enjoying since gaining independence more than 30 years ago.

"We should maintain this peace and continue to develop the country in the interests of everyone," he added.

Dr Mahathir will launch an industrial site for manufacturing light aircraft components, the RM1.2 billion Ornasteel plant and Maritime Museum.

-- Bernama

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