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Mahathir-rule

GOVT WILL STRIVE TO RETAIN RULE, SAYS MAHATHIR

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MELAKA, June 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government will strive to retain Umno and Barisan Nasional rule in Malaysia so that the people can continue to enjoy the country's wealth.

He was confident that the people would continue to elect Umno and other BN component parties as only these could fulfil the promises and implement what they preached.

"I'm confident that Umno and BN rule could be continued. In fact, developed countries and the World Bank had acknowledged the progress achieved and Malaysia has become a model due to its good government administration," he said when speaking at an Umno subscription dinner here.

"Don't play around with the election of leaders because to eliminate a leader is very difficult. Particularly if the man who is elected uses his power to enrich himself," he said.

If that happens, a rich nation could be ruined by one man, he added. -- more

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Mahathir-rule 2 (last) Melaka

Dr Mahathir said the people should choose leaders with good ideas to develop the country.

"Having leaders with no ideas will only cause the country to remain stagnant and be poor," he said.

He said the progress brought about by Umno and BN had made many companies make profits.

In fact, Tenaga Nasional and Telekom chalked up RM1.5 billion in profits a year while several other companies made RM600 million annually, he said.

Dr Mahathir said profits reaped by the companies in Malaysia enabled them to make contributions like donations to the needy.

He explained that though Umno opposed money politics soliciting donations for the party could not be misconstrued as money politics.

"What we mean by money politics is Umno leaders using money for themselves and not for Umno, the party still needed money," he said.

"For the election also we need money and for other things. Prices of goods have gone up and all this required money," he said.

Also present were his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, state Umno and BN leaders. -- Bernama

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