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Mahathir-Kelantan

MASS DEFECTIONS OF PAS MEMBERS CAN RESOLVE KELANTAN'S POLITICAL IMPASSE

KUALA BERANG, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is confident that the political crisis in Kelantan could be resolved through mass defections of PAS supporters and leaders especially its elected representatives to join Umno.

He said that the problem in Kelantan now was not caused by Umno but its own people who have made their choice and provided the chance for PAS to come to power.

"I believe the political impasse in the state could be resolved through mass defections of PAS members themselves especially its elected representatives," he told a news conference at the end of his visit to the Tasik Kenyir Golf Resort, about 40km from here.

The PAS-led Kelantan government is now crippled following the party's move to sever ties with Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) on July 14.

Attempts by Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to expel four S46 state executive councillors have not been successful as he has failed to seek the consent of the Sultan of Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said that a state government in the country need not necessarily be toppled through an election.

"The Kelanta PAS government could collapse through the defections of PAS executive councillors and elected representatives to join Umno," he said.

He said that the federal government would not carry out any actions to overcome the problem in Kelantan to avoid accusations that it had resorted to dictatorial measures to recapture the government.

"We will only act if there are chaos or disorder. Until such time, it is up to PAS members themselves, whether to continue to endure a government which cannot function effectively or otherwise," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that for the good of the Malays themselves, it was better for PAS to take the initiative to dissolve the party and all its members apply to join Umno.

He said that it was high time for PAS to rethink its existence because its agenda to struggle for Islam was clearly a farce.

"Islam does not advocate divisions among the Muslims but this is what is actually being done by PAS," he said.

Dr Mahathir challenged PAS leaders to cite verses from the Quran or the Hadith to prove that PAS members should not pray with Umno members or to prohibit them from consuming meat slaughtered by Umno members. -- BERNAMA

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