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Mahathir-Kelantan

KELANTAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO DEVELOP THE STATE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PASIR PUTEH, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Kelantan faces development problems because it is ruled by a state government which does not know how to develop the state, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said, although Kelantan is rich with natural resources and vast areas with potential for development, no development was carried out because of Pas' incompetence in administering the state.

For this reason, he said, Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) intended to bring changes to Kelantan to enable the people to raise their standard of living.

"Choose those who know (how to bring development) and don't choose those who always says they don't know," he said when addressing some 10,000-strong rally at padang Sekolah Menengah Cherang Ruku, Semerak near here.

Dr Mahathir said the BN's victory in Semerak state by-election on Aug 11 was a good start to bring changes to the state.

Taking Pas to task for attributing the BN's victory to phantom voters, he said Pas was always making false promises and taking advantage of the people's strong adherence to the teachings of Islam for its own interest.

Present at the people's rally were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, who is Kelantan BN chief, the new Semerak assemblyman Kamarudin Mohd Nor and Umno leaders including Gua Musang Member of Parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Kelantan Umno Liaison Chief, said he was confident that Kelantan could one day become the most developed state if the BN government could rule the state without interruption.

If given the chance, he said the BN intended to make Kelantan a model state of how a population made up of almost 100 per cent Malays and Muslims could succeed.

He said many people in Kelantan were forced to go to other states in search of livelihood because of lack of opportunities at home to make good their skills.

Referring to the Tok Bali fishing area near here, Dr Mahathir said it could be turned into a tourist attraction and a fish landing centre which could provide many employment opportunities for the locals.

Unfortunately, he said there was no development in the area because the state government did not know how to go about it.

"I call upon Pas to be sincere in their slogan "Saya tidak tahu" (I don't know)..., so, if people are to choose them it is because of their sincerity," he said.

While respecting Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for his simplicity, he hoped Nik Aziz would be willing to admit to voters during elections that he did not know how to administer the state.

Dr Mahathir hit out at Pas for always blaming the federal government for purportedly not being cooperative with the state government.

Dr Mahathir also called on Umno elected representatives to work hard at all times in bringing changes to the state. --BERNAMA

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