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Mahathir-Internet

BN MAY USE INTERNET FOR GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA KANGSAR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not discount the possibility of the Barisan Nasional (BN) using the Internet in the campaigning for the next general election to counter the dirty attacks made through this media.

"If that is the way people want to attack the BN, we will have to make use of it the same way." he said.

He said it would make the election campaigning harder because all parties would be using this media to get their message across.

"The dirty use of the Internet is most depressing," he told reporters after visiting the Mariwasa Kraftangan Sdn Bhd factory, here.

Dr Mahathir said the Internet was a tool for imparting knowledge and not a media to convey "all the dirt in our hearts".

"It would be a waste if we have such a good tool that is used for a need that did not arise previously," he added.

He likened the Internet to a knife that could be used to carve something beautiful or to kill.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik had earlier today called on the BN to be prepared for the possibility of an "Internet war" in the next general election following the widespread use of this media.

On his visit to the Mariwasa factory, Dr Mahathir said local manufacturers must produce innovative products for the local and foreign markets.

He said the local industries must work at full capacity to meet the demand for local goods and thus reduce the country's cash outflow.

"I noticed this factory's extraordinary ability to produce metal goods like high quality silver and pewter."

The prime minister said the factory was discussing with a Japanese firm to acquire manufacturing technology using laser which would save time.

Dr Mahathir said he learnt of this technology during his visit to Japan recently.

He also called on factory operators to extend the vendor system to encourage the growth of small-scale industries.

Mariwasa is the company that produced the medals for the 1998 Commonwealth Games here last September.

-- BERNAMA

MAM HK JK