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Mohamed-BN

RETAIN BIG MAJORITY, SEC-GEN TELLS BN COMPONENTS

JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- All component parties of the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition have been directed to immediately activate their respective election machinery to guarantee no erosion to the coalition's massive majority in the next general election.

BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said after its landslide victory in the 1995 general election, a reduced majority could not be ruled out for the BN in the next polls "but the decline would not be to extent of the BN government being defeated."

As such, he hoped all BN components were now in a high level of preparedness and would have by now taken care of internal problems besides avoiding quarrels over seat allocation and candidates.

"If we can take care of these matters now, the people would return us to power with a bigger majority in the future. I'm confident that the present government will be re-elected and continue to enjoy support," he told reporters here last night.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said while the DAP had forecast the opposition securing up to 70 parliamentary seats in the next general election, the party also conceded that it would be impossible to defeat the BN.

Mohamed said the opposition's objective of eroding away the BN's two-thirds majority could still very well remain a dream.

"Despite the current political problems, Umno's position remains good," he said.

Mohamed said all BN component parties, Umno in particular, would have to intensify efforts to endear themselves to the masses and keep the people enlightened.

"Umno is still solid and strong and so are the BN components. We reckon the country's political problems will subside," he said.

Mohamed added that BN components have repeatedly expressed support for whatever Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's actions as BN chairman.

-- BERNAMA

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