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Mahathir-Sabah

SABAH ELECTION AS BAROMETER OF BN'S FUTURE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the coming Sabah election is very important because it serves as a barometer of the future of Barisan Nasional (BN).

In this connection, he urged the younger generation in the BN to ensure victory for the coalition front in the state election.

"Don't forget your responsibility to your race and country. I'm confident that if we act in a more responsible manner by accepting that our nation is our responsibility, then we will emerge victorious in the election to enable us to continue bringing development to Malaysia and Sabah," he said when addressing a gathering of BN youth, here.

The Sabah election must be held at the latest in March next year.

Dr Mahathir who is also BN chairman said the BN government would restore Sabah's wealth which had been eroded by irresponsible people in the past.

"We, being more responsible, will restore the wealth of Sabah and make it a premier state in Malaysia," he said to the applause of those present.

"I've confident that Sabah can...the Barisan Nasional Youth can, because this generation is a responsible generation who want to serve their country," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day working visit here, urged the people of Sabah to support all BN candidates, irrespective of who they were and from which component parties they came.

The people must remember that the BN would be contesting, not the component parties, he said.

According to the prime minister, what is important is not the individuals but voting the BN to power. There is no point if some BN candidates win but the party loses on the whole.

"When we win and form the government, that will be the time when we gain many benefits, but if we lose and cannot form the government, even though we are happy because we are not the candidates and succeed in frustrating the candidates chosen by the BN, we will get nothing," he said.

He urged the BN Youth to understand the BN concept of place the party's interest above those of individual candidates or component parties.

Dr Mahathir said the BN must maintain power to continue its development efforts especially in making Malaysia a developed nation by the year 2020.

He said he was sad when he saw how bad Sabah's situation was -- like being in a poor and backward country -- when the BN took over the state's administration from the opposition government.

This happened because the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) which ruled Sabah before that had destroyed and acquired the wealth of the state for themselves.

The BN would not allow this to occur twice and Dr Mahathir was confident that the BN Youth would play an important role in determining the victory of the party in the state election.

"The BN Youth will determine who will lead the country. You will inherit apa what we have built.

"When you take over, what you get is a developed and prosperous country, capable in all aspects," he said.

Also present were Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and acting BN Youth chairman Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein.

--BERNAMA

AFY AHH ABG