

12/09/1999

All BN members told to ensure win for coalition

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Barisan Nasional members should ensure victory for the coalition in the general election regardless of party affiliation.

BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that this represented the Barisan Nasional spirit.

"We work to ensure the victory of the coalition and not only the candidate. They can come from any of the component parties, but to us, the only face we see is the dacing (BN logo)," he said at a luncheon with Federal Territory BN leaders and members at Wisma PGRM.

Dr Mahathir was confident that the FT Umno would ensure a BN victory in seats contested by component parties in the Federal capital.

"I am sure the same goes for other component parties which will rally behind Umno in seats it will be contesting," he said to applause from the crowd.

He said component parties should not wait for candidates to be named before preparing for the polls.

The Prime Minister said nothing would be done if everyone - the component parties, incumbents and aspirants - were to wait for candidates to be identified before activating their election machinery.

He said if all were to co-operate and get to know the electorate, the BN could win convincingly.

Tracing the events leading to the creation of the BN 25 years ago and how it had created a successful formula based on power sharing among the various races, Dr Mahathir said:

"The Opposition parties are now trying to emulate the BN but they are doomed to fail because their objectives are not just different but opposing."

He said while the DAP wanted to create a Malaysian Malaysia, Pas was determined to set up an Islamic State.

Parti Rakyat Malaysia, with its socialist ideology, had been rejected by Malaysians, he added.

Parti Keadilan Nasional, he said, was set up to champion the cause of one person who, after being with the BN for 17 years, now claimed the Government was unjust following his sacking.

"We all know about imitation goods ... the quality is inferior.

"It is the same with the Opposition coalition which is set up only to face the general election.

"This differs from the BN which has been in existence for 25 years - no matter whether there are elections or not."

Dr Mahathir said the BN was created and strengthened upon the willingness of all sides to share power.

Earlier, at the opening of the Titiwangsa Umno building in Desa Pandan, Dr Mahathir said the party had to remain strong so that it could continue to play its role in the development of the country.

No one, he said, could deny the contributions of the party in the country's progress.

The party president said Umno was not established to enable members to obtain posts or become wealthy but to bring progress to the country so that it could be on par with developed nations.

Dr Mahathir said so far, the party had managed to fulfil its responsibility, judging from rapid development in the country.

"Many foreigners who have seen the rapid transformation taking place