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Mahathir-Focus

BM CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON PERLIS, KEDAH, KELANTAN AND TERENGGAU

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional campaign in the country's 10th General Election will focus on Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This is because lies and slander are being spread among Kampung people in these states which are largely populated by the Malays," he told reporters after addressing more than 15,000 BN Youth and Wanita members at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

These people seemed to have so much faith in individuals whom they considered as ulamas, when in fact these so called ulamas were using their position to confuse them, Dr Mahathir who is also BN Chairman said.

"For instance they say profanities are found in the holy book and that this is good and that is no good and so on.... and because these are uttered by ulamas, they believe. If I say slander is worse than murder and that this is found in the Quran they choose not to understand because I am the one who is saying it," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the BN would mobilise its entire machinery and that included the Youth and Wanita movements to explain the truth and counter the slanders.

From tomorrow onwards Dr Mahathir would be getting briefings from the leaders of BN component parties and State Liaison committees on the election preparations.

On speculation in the newspapers that several Menteri Besar would be dropped, Dr Mahathir said, "usually all kinds of speculation surface and how am I to comment on them...just wait for nomination day."

Asked whether there would be several new faces from among the BN ranks, he said this was a normal matter during every general election.

On talk that the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali would contest a seat in Kedah and be appointed Kedah Menteri Besar, Dr Mahathir said everyone was free to speculate.

"The names of candidates are already there but have not been finalised and I want to hear the views of liaison committee heads and heads of component parties."

Nomination for the General Election is on Nov 20 and polling will be on Nov 29.

-- BERNAMA

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