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Mahathir-Seats

BN CAN CAPTURE SEVERAL "GREY SEATS"

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Barisan Nasional (BN) is confident of winning several seats classified as "grey areas" in this general election.

"I think there are a few grey seats which we think we can convert to white before polling day," the Prime Minister told reporters at the old terminal of the Kota Kinabalu International Airport here tonight at the end of a one-day visit to Sabah.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said the coalition was prepared for any tactics that might be used by the opposition in the campaigning.

"Now they are using the tactic of making police reports...when we do something, they report to police alleging it is an offence," he said.

Citing an example, he said when BN published photographs of riots that took place in this country, the opposition immediately accused it of resorting to threats.

"We are not using threats; we only want to remind the people about the possibility of them making a wrong choice so that the people will realise they should reject those who staged street demonstrations, burnt cars, smashed walls...this kind of people are not fit to be the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the BN could capture "16 seats and maybe more" in Sabah, and stood a chance of forming the government in Kelantan. There are 20 parliamentary seats in Sabah and one is Labuan.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok's nomination for the Kinabalu seat although the former chief minister previously contested in Penampang.

Dr Mahathir said: "We feel that whether Umno contests in Kinabalu or Tenom, we will win. So we have to give up one of the seats."

"If we do not contest in Tenom, we may lose. Because of this, Umno has decided to contest in Tenom and give Kinabalu to Dompok."

BN's candidate in Tenom is Rizalman Abdullah of Umno.

Dr Mahathir then left for Kuching for a visit.

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY