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BN can win Kelantan 'if all members work hard'

KOTA BARU, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Barisan Nasional can form the next State Government in Kelantan if all party members worked hard towards it.

Speaking to reporters after meeting BN State Assemblymen at Rumah Sri Kelantan here, Dr Mahathir said the State Assemblymen had made their own assessments and felt that the BN had a good chance of forming the next State Government in Kelantan.

"We can win in Kelantan, provided all party members worked hard to ensure that the party wins. Any decision taken by the party must be accepted without any protest."

On the position of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah in the State Umno liaison committee, Dr Mahathir said Razaleigh, as an influential person had a major role to play to ensure BN's victory in the elections.

He said Razaleigh would not be given any party position at this juncture.

But he said as a party member, Razaleigh was eligible to contest in the next Umno elections.

On the prediction by some economists that the Malaysian economy would grow by between two and 2.5 per cent this year, Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to know why these economists made such predictions.

"Of course, there is a possibility, but we are more certain of one per cent growth," he said.

Asked whether Razaleigh would be made adviser to the National Economic Action Council, Dr Mahathir said anyone with the relevant expertise could be invited to sit in the NEAC.

Later, speaking before breaking fast with the people at Sekolah Menengah Sains Machang in Labok, Dr Mahathir criticised certain quarters who claimed to be upholding the Islamic struggle but failed to reflect it in their actions.

He said he was saddened by the actions of these groups who openly defied Islamic teachings by spreading untruths and humiliating others.

Dr Mahathir said even during Ramadan when Muslims were supposed to refrain from bad mouthing others, these groups kept doing so after the terawih prayers.

He said they had the right to exercise their freedom of speech but being Muslims, they were obliged to adhere to the Islamic tenets. "As Muslims, we should be able to differentiate a gem from glass. They may appear to be gems but in reality they are not."

He said the people should not blindly follow such leaders. "We have the right to correct the imam if he makes mistakes during prayers. If a leader continues to do wrong after his mistakes have been pointed out, we should stop supporting him."

He said there was no point in talking about Islamic brotherhood if the actual intention was to create animosity.

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