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Mahathir-Seats

BN COMPONENTS MAY SWAP SEATS, SAY MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- Component parties of the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) may swap constituencies with each other in the coming general election, Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

In the event that a component party has to drop its incumbent in a state or parliamentary seat, the party concerned "will get an alternative seat to contest in," he said elaborating the possible seat-swap.

He told reporters this after chairing the BN Supreme Council meeting here today when asked whether the coalition partners had decided on their candidate lists and about possible changes to the seat allocation ratio.

Dr Mahathir indicated that he did not expect the BN to alter the ratio in seat allocation to the component parties.

Asked whether all the 14 BN component parties would contest in the coming general election, Dr Mahathir said: "That is according to the present situation."

By this, he said, he meant the current number of seats held by the coalition's component parties.

"We'll stick to this while also taking into account who can command bigger support from the masses," said Dr Mahathir without elaborating.

The BN comprises peninsula-based parties Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan and PPP, Sabah-based LDP, Akar, UPKO, PBRS and SAPP and Sarawak-based PBB, SUPP, PBDS and SNAP.

-- BERNAMA

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