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Election-Barisan Nasional

BN COMPONENT PARTIES HAVE RESOLVED INTERNAL PROBLEMS- MOHAMED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional component parties with internal problems have resolved them and are confident of retaining a more than two-third majority in the post election Parliament, BN Secretary-General Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said today.

"I am satisfied with the status of the BN component parties and am confident that the people will have even greater confidence in the BN when the General Election is held," he said after a meeting with the secretaries-general of the 14 BN parties here.

"We are united, strong and reinforced," he said after the meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The BN groups peninsula-based Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan and PPP while the parties from Sabah are LDP, Akar Bersatu, PDS, PBRS and SAPP and those in Sarawak are PBB, SUPP, PBDS and SNAP.

Mohamed said all BN component parties had set up their election machinery and the BN headquarters was in consultation with the parties to appoint the BN Area Chairmen for a two-year period from Aug 1 to July 31 2001.

This was to strengthen cooperation among BN component parties in elections, he said.

Under the BN Constitution, the BN Area Chairmen are appointed every two years.

Prime Minister and BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that the general election would be held at anytime now and had directed the BN component parties to activate their election machinery and hold dry runs.

The term of the present Parliament ends on June 7 next year. The last General Election was held on April 24 and 25, 1995.

Mohamed said the BN headquarters was considering the dry runs but no date had been fixed.

He expressed the hope that BN component parties would store any fresh problem that cropped up in the freezer, put their house in order and remain united to ensure the BN's success in the election.

"Even though the BN is confident of retaining a more than two-third majority in the new Parliament, BN component parties should not be complacent but must work hard as the Opposition has been talking about a tough challenge to the BN," Mohamed said.

Mohamed wanted all BN component parties to get close to the people and win the hearts and minds of the voters.

He felt that the BN was well received by the people in view of its long and faithful service and there was no better alternative or that which was more suited to Malaysia.

"If we wish to continue progressing in the new millennium, Malaysia has no other choice apart from the BN concept which is clearly effective," he said.

The BN component parties have more than 150,000 branches nationwide with Umno branches alone totalling 57,000.

Mohamed did not believe that the opposition parties could agree on a pact to face the general election judging from what happened in previous elections as they had no common perception on several matters.

"Their cooperation is a political gimmick and eventually they will use each other," he added.

-- BERNAMA
AFY AAM