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Mahathir-Chinese

BN EXPECTS EVER STRONGER CHINESE SUPPORT IN POLLS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is convinced of the governing Barisan Nasional coalition getting ever stronger support from the Chinese community in the Nov 29 general election.

"Everywhere I go, they all say openly they appreciate what the government has done. They say we are with you," he told local newspaper editors at his office in Putrajaya today.

The prime minister said the Chinese community had always contributed much by not being extreme in their demands.

They were willing to make sacrifices as much the other communities were willing to make sacrifices.

"I think both the MCA and Gerakan are today much stronger mainly because the Chinese community, which is largely the business community, appreciates the management of the economy by the government," said Dr Mahathir.

"You see companies today making profit sometimes as much as seven times more than they did last year or more than they ever did.

"So companies are doing very well, business is good. The economy is vibrant again," he said.

The Chinese community appreciated this and they would support the BN regardless of whether it is represented by the MCA or Gerakan, he said.

He hoped the Chinese community would not make a distinction between the MCA and Gerakan because the Malay community and Umno would support all BN candidates, irrespective whether they were from Gerakan, MCA or MIC.

Dr Mahathir also expressed confidence of the BN getting strong support from the Indian community.

"We have done a lot for the Indian community but of course those who are not happy will always say well the Indian community gets nothing and all that.

"Sometimes when I go to a professional meeting, I see Indians only, I don't see Malays, I don't see Chinese, so they must be doing quite well," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ MOK RYN