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Manifesto-Reaction

BN MANIFESTO IS A WINNING FORMULA IN ENSURING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY

SUNGAI SIPUT, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto for the 10th general election is a winning formula in ensuring that the BN will retain the two-thirds majority, said Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib today.

The BN had been using this formula which had been proven to be effective for all the previous general elections, he said commenting on the manifesto, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night.

Ramli said democratic freedom had never been curtailed since the country achieved independence in 1957 and this reflected the hard work put in by the BN government.

The manifesto, carrying the theme "Malaysia: Free, United, Successful", would help the BN in several areas in Perak which needed hard work to ensure a victory, he told reporters here.

Meanwhile, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the manifesto aimed to ensure that all efforts at development would be continued so that the country could face the challenges from globalisation.

"It's appropriate that we strive to be free from the influence of external power. Globalisation is an important aspect in the new millennium," she said after the opening of the Sayong Bridge by Ramli in Kuala Kangsar.

She said the country would face a very serious challenge in future and this required a very strong and experienced government.

In LANGKAWI, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid described the manifesto as apt and realistic.

The manifesto would enable the country to maintain political stability, he told reporters after visiting patients at the Langkawi Hospital today.

"I feel the manifesto is far more realistic and futuristic than that of the alternative parties," he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Terengganu branch of the Malaysian Malay Chamber of Commerce (DPMM) described the manifesto as a new boost for Malay businessmen in the country.

Its president, Wan Mohamed Albakri Wan Mohamed Noor said it was appropriate as Malaysia was now recovering from the economic crisis which hit the country two years ago and as it moved towards the new millennium.

"Independence is an important aspect for the business community to continue to play an active role in economic activities, exploit all existing opportunities in business and create wealth," he said.

In KUALA LUMPUR, People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said the manifesto reflected the continued commitment of the BN to improve the well-being of the people of all walks of life in this country.

"The manifesto is very comprehensive, simple, forceful and easily understood," he told Bernama here.

Kayveas said each and every Malaysian should go through the manifesto so that they would know what was in store for them in future and for the coming generation.

Kayveas also said that the party members had turned in full force to support BN candidates on the nomination day on Saturday despite PPP not being given seats in the general election.

"We accept the reality. In this BN consensus system we cannot force any

BN component party to give up its seats. So it's not fair for members to be angry with any BN component party," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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