

21 NOV 1999

Mahathir-manifesto

BN MANIFESTO: A REALISTIC PROMISE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto is a promise which the government can fulfil and not just to fish for votes, said BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

He said the BN's promise in three simple words of a "free, united and successful" Malaysia would commit the government to fulfil its promise.

"We only promise what we can do. We choose words which are simple and easy to understand. We want the people to understand what we want to do, not using high level, confusing words which the people don't understand and when elected to power (they) will deny saying it," he said when launching the BN manifesto at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

Present at the launching, telecast live by TV3, were leaders of the 14 component parties of the BN.

The Prime Minister said that the manifesto of the opposition parties made better promises because they knew that they would not form the government and therefore need not have to keep their promises.

"We cannot, at this time, make Malaysia a major power. We don't make promise to make everyone a millionaire, that when we form a government, we will give pension and allowance to everyone, roads paved with gold, we don't make such promises like the opposition parties," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition parties tried to play with words so that when they win, their promises could be interpreted in many ways.

"As they could be interpreted in many ways, they will say, 'Actually we didn't promise that, we promised this'," he said.

The BN on the other hand, he said did not want to cheat the people by making promises which it could not fulfil, just to fish for votes.

"That is why the Barisan Nasional manifesto is easy to understand, using short and precise words, words that cannot be misinterpreted," he said.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said he believed that the people would understand the rationale behind these promises including opposing all forms of modern-day colonisation.

The business community would also understand what was meant by "free" because they had suffered as the result of the attack on Malaysian currency, he said.

Meanwhile, BN election operation director Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the BN manifesto is a complete document whose contents were agreed to by all the 14 component parties.

He said it was Dr Mahathir's idea to have the manifesto made in a book with colourful photographs and in a language easy to understand.

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