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Mahathir-Win

BN WILL WIN WITH MORE THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA TERENGGANU, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Barisan Nasional (BN) will obtain more than a two-third majority to form a government after the general election.

He said: "We will obtain more than a two-third majority because this time we have voters who were previously non-committed...the silent majority, now they are taking interest".

Such voters had publicly stated their support for the BN, he told a news conference after the ground-breaking ceremony of the proposed Sultan Mahmud Airport extension project, here.

Also present were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

"They are truly concerned over PAS'proposal to set up an Islamic state and to implement the Hudud with the DAP seeking to abolish the privileges of the Malays," he said when asked on the BN's current position.

Dr Mahathir said that the Malays and the non-Malays were now concerned as a result of the opposition's election campaign.

This prompted them to make pledges and to go out in support of the BN, he said.

Dr Mahathir recently called on the BN election machinery to woo the silent majority to go out and vote on polling day on Monday to ensure victory for the BN.

He said that PAS was prepared to mislead the people into thinking that it could implement the Hudud whereas they could not.

PAS had given its undertaking to the DAP that it would not implement the Hudud and set up an Islamic state but told the Malays that the party would proceed with its proposals, he said.

"So (the party) is double-tonguing...saying one thing to one person and saying some other thing to another," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that PAS already knew that they could not implement the Hudud as the party would need a two-third majority in parliament.

PAS could not possibly obtain a two-third majority in parliament when the other parties in the so-called Barisan Alternatif were not in support of its proposals, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that PAS' actions were not line with Islam and had caused splits in the Muslim community.

He said that PAS also poisoned the minds of children in pre-school and distracted students in universities from their studies.

As far as PAS was concerned, he said, its priority was to obtain votes for the party and for this they were prepared to resort to lies and allegations.

Asked to comment on PAS' lies and allegations in its organ Harakah, the prime minister said that the government had been flexible because of the democratic practices in the country.

However, he said, the government need to be more firm in the matter and would study the lies and allegations carried in the Harakah.

"If it has gone to the extent of undermining the faith of Muslims, we should give serious attention to the abuse of the word Islam," he said when asked on the use of the word Islam in the name of political parties.

On the alleged financial assistance provided by foreign countries to the opposition, Dr Mahathir said that proof was not only obtained by the

Foreign Ministry but also in the speech of Keadilan chief Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail who was with DAP vice chairman Karpal Singh in the election campaign in Jelutong recently.

"She admitted that they receive support from Westerners and were so proud to state that even Westerners are supporting them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "To us, this is shameful. This is our country and we do not need support from others.

"If there is proof that they receive financial assistance, we will have to make a study as at present there are no laws to prevent this. But accepting assistance from foreigners means accepting foreign interference in our country's affairs," he said.

He said: "If in the event that they were the ones to form the government, I am sure they will become the puppets of foreigners and we will no longer be free because of them".

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said that the progress achieved by the BN government was due to the dedication of government officers who had been efficient and professional in managing the country's financial resources.

He said that there were allegations that government officers had been influenced by the opposition but he felt that their number was small.

Dr Mahathir said that the BN government pledged to bring more progress to the country with projects to benefit the people.

He said that the BN government also pledged to protect Islam from being smeared by PAS.

Dr Mahathir also warned that PAS would bring up more lies and allegations against the BN government and leaders during the last few days of the election campaign.

He called on the people, especially in Terengganu, to reject PAS as the party had created rifts in the Muslim community.

On the appointment of a non-Malay and non-Mulsim as prime minister, Dr Mahathir said: "PAS stated that only an ulama can govern but it is prepared to accept Lim Kit Siang (DAP secretary-general). This means that it recognises Kit Siang as an ulama.... Soon they will let him have a white skull cap...Kit Siang will put on the white skull cap and speak at mosques to convince Muslims".

He said that PAS had already been doing this when non-Muslims were invited to Muslim houses of worship just to instil hatred against Umno and the BN.

-- BERNAMA

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