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Mahathir-Frustrations

CAN'T LET FRUSTRATED LOT RUN COUNTRY, SAYS MAHATHIR

KOTA TINGGI, May 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the task of running the country is not for frustrated people such as street demonstrators and those who set fire to rubbish dumps.

He said such people were not ready to form the government as they only knew how to riot and start fires everywhere.

"Don't even think yet of putting up a party to run the nation. These people can set fire to rubbish dumps, burn the BN (Barisan Nasional) flag. If they can only burn down flags, they can't govern yet," he said.

The country has no place for such people, he said addressing a meet-the-people function at the Felda Pengeli Timur school field near here today.

Dr Mahathir said frustrated groups could find ways to show their frustrations but they have no right to form the government as they were only good at committing arson and abusing others.

"If they are so good at burning rubbish bins, we'll supply them with rubbish bins... let them burn," he said.

The prime minister said the antics of these groups only showed that they have run out of ideas and ceased to be rational.

"If they're no longer rational to fight.. if for them arguing means hurling abuses, this shows they're bankrupt of ideas. That's why they resort to discrediting and spreading lies about other people through the internet," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no place for such people who were fond of lying to the extent that sometime back, they even said that he had died.

He said such people did not deserve even one vote and he did not see how they could improve the people's lot if they were in power.

The prime minister said such are the people who would visit Felda land schemes to plead for votes, spread lies and try to garner support by sowing hatred towards the government and national leaders.

They were hoping that by making the people hate the government and the leaders, the electorate would in turn vote for them, he said.

"When we vote and let them win, we get nothing. We get zero. They have not developed a single Felda scheme because they have nothing except the ability to run down others, spread lies and use abusive words," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was not campaigning for the general election although it would be held not later than April next year.

The prime minister said he was only carrying out his responsibility to explain to government supporters, in particular, about the existence of people who were to fish for votes and support from the electorate purely for their selfish ends.

According to him, the government spared no efforts in finding ways to bring about greater prosperity to Malaysians and this explained why it was able to deflect attempts by outsiders to bring down the stock and the financial market.

"Thank Allah, we've stifled their attempts and once again we're in control of our economy which is steadily recovering. With the economy growing again, everyone will benefit," he said.

He said it has always been the ideal of the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) to help improve the lot of the people and to see their income keep on improving.

As such it was crucial that Malaysians remained united and continue

striving to bring the nation to a level of progress at par with that of developed countries in Europe.

"We can't acquire wealth by just demanding to be rich without doing any work. Worse still if we start demonstrating and rioting on the streets demanding this and that without making any effort at all," he said.

Although rain-soaked, the capacity crowd on the school field remained unperturbed by the downpour during the two-hour function and concentrated on the prime minister's speech.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam were present.

At the function, 10 representatives of settlers from five Felde land schemes in Johor received title deeds for their land from the prime minister.

They were settlers of the Taib Andak, Bukit Batu, Air Tawar 4, Pasir Raja and Pengeli Timur Felde schemes.

The Pengeli Timur scheme, covering 1,885.65 ha, was first developed in 1973. It started off with 460 settlers in 1977 and the population has grown to 4,700 presently.

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