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Mahathir-Life

DON'T LOSE GOOD LIFE, MAHATHIR TELLS PEOPLE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians risk losing the good life they are enjoying now if the next general election is allowed to result in a hung parliament leaving no strong party to rule the country.

"Malaysians cannot take things for granted. If we have a hung parliament and no strong party to rule, then the good life they are enjoying will no longer be there.

"In fact, they will suffer economically, socially and politically," he said.

The prime minister said this when reporters approached him on his message to Malaysian voters in the coming general election after launching an Umno Youth pre-poll special camp at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Present at the closed-door function were Deputy Prime Minister and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Cabinet ministers, Umno Supreme Council members and veteran party leaders.

Asked whether he has decided on the election date, Dr Mahathir said it would be definitely be held before July next year.

"That day I said April, but it is actually July," he said.

"We can have it any time, but we don't want to waste public money by having election early or often," he said.

Asked about what he thought of the opposition, Dr Mahathir said they were less serious as they were busy fighting each other.

He said the opposition lacked the objective or interest in developing the country or in giving Malaysians a good life.

They were just interested in pursuing their private ambition, he said.

On predictions that the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition would lose some seats in the northern peninsular states, the prime minister said the BN would lose some and win some.

"These are predictions before each election but every time they are wrong," said Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman and Umno president.

He also said he would resume his nation-wide tour soon after a short break.

"I have gone to Sabah, Johor, Selangor and I will go to other states including Kedah to meet Umno members and grassroots," he said.

He said the turn-out at his recent state tours was big and the feedback he received about the masses' support for the BN was very good.

On suggestions that Malaysian students abroad would be voting against the governing coalition in the coming general election, Dr Mahathir said this could be so among those influenced by the opposition.

"If we ask them (anti-government students) they indeed give the impression that every student abroad is so-inclined," Dr Mahathir said.

The prime minister said that Malaysian students overseas were largely grateful to the government and aware that they would not have been able to pursue higher education if not for government bursaries.

"The grateful ones will support the government," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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