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Mahathir-General election

DON'T BE CONFUSED ON OBJECTIVE OF GENERAL ELECTION, DR MAHATHIR

JITRA, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people should not be confused on the main objective of the general election, that is, to choose a government that can bring development to the country.

The Prime Minister said this was because the opposition parties had tried to confuse the people lately on the main objective of the general election merely to fish for votes.

Their (opposition's) objective was to confuse the people so that they would make the wrong choice, he said at a gathering with the people at the Tunjang Fire Volunteers Station Building, near here.

"They do it so that the rakyat will get confused and choose them instead of the eligible party," Dr Mahathir said.

Their style, he said, was to create hatred against the government, the Barisan Nasional (BN) and the leaders so that the rakyat would hate the establishment in the hope that they would choose the opposition.

The Prime Minister said that as a result, various slanders were spread against the BN and himself, including calling him by various names such as "Firaun" (Pharaoh) and "Maha Zalim" (Most Cruel).

All this was done out of desperation by the opposition to incite the people against the government although there was no truth at all in the allegations, he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman and Umno president, said the opposition also tried to confuse the rakyat claiming that there would still be development in the country regardless of which party was in government.

He reminded the people that not all the ruling parties had the efficiency to bring development to the people.

He said: "Just look at Kelantan and Sabah, for example. When the opposition ruled, the people became poor.

"Many people from Kelantan left the state to look for work in Kedah, Johor and Singapore because the PAS government is not capable and lack wisdom in administering the state."

The Prime Minister said the BN (formerly the Alliance) had been proven to be capable in administering and developing the country.

In fact the BN government had been proven to be capable of fulfilling its promises to the rakyat and even brought more development than what it had promised, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN government had never made any promise that it could not deliver, not like the opposition when making promises to the rakyat.

"Cross the scale because it weighs fairly. The moon is unpredictable. On the 15th day it is full, on the first day nothing is visible," he said.

He said the opposition also used religion to fish for votes including misinterpreting the verses from the Quran for political gain.

At the gathering, Dr Mahathir again confirmed that he would defend his Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat which he has held since 1974.

On the rumour that an ulama, Prof Datuk Harun Din would stand in Kubang Pasu, Dr Mahathir said he was prepared to face any challenger.

He also criticised Harun Din for selling water which was claimed to be able to cure diseases.

Dr Mahathir said when Harun Din was suffering from a heart attack, he

had to seek treatment in Australia, as though he had no confidence in the Malaysian doctors.

Also present at the gathering were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah and deputy head of Kubang Pasu Umno division Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

-- BERNAMA

TEAM AO