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Mahathir-Taste

DON'T TAKE GENERAL ELECTION AS A TEST OF TASTE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the people that the general election is not a matter of "testing their taste".

"The general election is to form a government. We can't play around with our vote," he said when speaking at a gathering of the leader with the people at Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina Pu Sze Skudai, here.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here from Kuching for a brief visit, said the fate of the people and the country for the next five years or even more would be determined by the people's vote on Nov 29.

"We cannot just try this or try that," he said.

As such, Dr Mahathir said, responsible people who comprised of the various races and parties must ensure that they vote for Barisan Nasional (BN).

The Prime Minister said the rakyat could not try their taste because the BN government had a task in developing the country.

He said the BN was a coalition of 14 parties which was unique in the world as its leaders and people's representatives placed party's interest above self interest.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said he was proud because those who were not selected as candidates for the election this time were also actively campaigning for the candidates nominated by the party.

"I congratulate them for their willingness to put aside self interest and personal position to ensure victory for BN.

"The is the attitude and spirit of BN. For the sake of the country and party they (members) are prepared to be sacrificed so that the people in general will enjoy the fruits of the BN's struggles," he said.

Dr Mahathir also urged all BN candidates to go and meet the electorates at home if possible, ensure that everyone who would vote for the BN on Nov 29 would go to the polling centre.

"Every body must go out. We want victory with the biggest majority," he stressed.

God willing, he said, BN would win in all seats contested in Johor and contribute to a more than two-thirds majority win for BN.

"I am confident that we will come out in large numbers and bring all voters out to the polling centres to vote for BN on Nov 29 so that our future is guaranteed," said the Prime Minister.

Touching on the opposition, Dr Mahathir said their leaders spoke vociferously on the rule of law but what were they doing.

"They stage riots, they seek foreign assistance and they are willing to be puppets of foreign powers. These are examples which we have seen. Can these people uphold the law when they are the ones breaking the law?" he said.

Dr Mahathir said when they failed to get something they would stage riots on the streets forcing many traders to close shop and suffer losses.

"Can we trust people like them to uphold the law when they are the ones who break the law and regulations when they are frustrated," he said.

He said the government had tried to remind the rakyat on the antics of Parti Keadilan Nasional and its supporters who staged riots in Kuala Lumpur as they were angry that legal action was taken against their leader.

"They stage riots in Kuala Lumpur and we know that this is their way. That's why we show pictures of the riots to remind us of the Parti Keadilan

style," he said.

But when we showed pictures of the riots, they lodged police report alleging that we tried to threaten the people not to vote for them, he said.

"They want the police to stop us (from showing the pictures) as though this is not fair and (we) try to scare the people," said Dr Mahathir, adding that these pictures must be shown as often as possible to remind the people.

Also present at the function was Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

-- BERNAMA

MKO AO