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Mahathir-BN

DON'T GAMBLE FUTURE ON BARISAN ALTERNATIF, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on Malaysians not to gamble with their future by voting for the opposition `Barisan Alternatif' (Alternative Front) in the next general election.

"Believe me, Barisan Alternatif is no alternative to the people and the future of Malaysia," he said at a dinner hosted by the Sabah government at the Pan Pacific Sutera Hotel, here.

The dinner was attended by political and community leaders, non-governmental organisations and government officials.

Dr Mahathir said `Barisan Alternatif' comprising PAS, DAP, Parti Keadilan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) had four objectives, unlike the Barisan Nasional's single objective of bringing greater development and prosperity for the people.

"One is interested in forming an Islamic state, another to set up a Malaysian Malaysia, another to release somebody who is jailed while the last is thinking about socialism, which has been discarded by all socialists and communists," he said.

"BN, which, has been in power since independence in 1957 has served Malaysia very well. The people must ensure that BN continues to be in power after the election," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said the ruling coalition still has a lot of things that need to be done, including in Sabah.

"When we make promises, we promise only what we can implement. But Barisan Alternatif makes all kinds of promises because they know that they might not win the election," he said.

"BN wished to be retained as we have yet to complete efforts. The BN efforts run into 10, 20 and 30 years into the future."

He added that as the BN came up with the Vision 2020 which aims to turn Malaysia into a fully developed nation, then only the BN is capable of seeing it through.

Dr Mahathir said a country like Malaysia needed a strong government.

"We need a strong government not to change the constitution. But, a strong government is needed for countries like Malaysia to protect itself from the dangers of the new century," he said.

He said Malaysia would be recolonised if it had a weak government and led by weak leaders.

He said the BN government served the people and not the leaders.

Dr Mahathir said he himself would not allow BN leaders to forsake the people.

As to when the general election will be held, he said it would be announced if the BN is confident of a big victory.

-- BERNAMA

AU THG