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Mahathir-Sabah

DR MAHATHIR WANTS PEOPLE IN SABAH TO VOTE FOR BN

Kota Kinabalu, March 4 (Bernama) -- The people in Sabah should continue to support the Barisan Nasional (BN) in order for them to help themselves and the future generation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said if the people chose other parties, they would only be supporting the party and the candidate concerned while their future was not assured.

"Only the BN can continue to bring development to Sabah," he said at a meet-the-people session in Menggatal, near here tonight.

"Only the BN has the capability to bring development and to improve unity among the various ethnic groups in the state."

The Prime Minister arrived here today for a three-day visit to Sabah.

He said the many shortcomings of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) when it ruled the state had to be taken care of by the BN government when it took over the state's administration.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, said he is confident the people in the state would continue to vote for the BN as they are aware only the BN could make good on its promises.

"When we make a promise, we hold true to it. We promised to rotate the chief minister's post and it has been implemented," he said.

"The BN promotes power-sharing among all the races in this country and this is proof that it is not power crazy."

He said Tan Sri Bernard Dompok's term as Sabah Chief Minister has yet to expire and voters, especially the Kadazandusuns, need to support the BN to ensure Dompok could continue to represent the community.

Dr Mahathir said the BN's only wish for Sabah is to bring development to the state so that it is on par with other states in peninsular Malaysia.

"That is why the federal government and the BN are giving special attention to Sabah, much to the envy of other states because of the bigger allocations for Sabah," he said.

Good relations between the state government and the federal government is the only way to ensure progress and development for the state, he said.

Dr Mahathir said development in Sabah could progress smoothly due to the good relations between the BN state government and the federal government.

He reminded the people that development has to be continuous and not done in a day or so.

He also refuted accusations by certain quarters that the presence of federal BN leaders in Sabah was an attempt at colonising the state.

"The BN concept is one of cooperation...this time Sabah is holding a state election, so friends from the peninsula are here to help. The Sabah BN leaders too will go to the peninsula to help in the campaigning when an election is held there," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the late Peter Mojuntin, a Sabah state minister and respected Kadazandusun leader, had himself went to peninsular Malaysia to campaign for the Alliance candidates then.

He said voters in Sabah should not be taken in by opposition promises such as a RM300 dividend each from the Sabah Foundation as they could not implement it.

"The BN will fulfill its promise such as the setting up of a university in Sabah," he said.

The first phase of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here costing RM1.2 billion was worth much more than what the opposition had promised, he said.

"The BN spent such a huge amount on higher education facilities in Sabah because the future of the state is in the hands of its younger generation," said Dr Mahathir.

Among those present at the function was Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam.

Dr Mahathir later held a closed-door meeting with leaders of the state BN component parties and BN candidates for the Sabah state election on March 12 and 13.

-- BERNAMA

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