

22 JUL 1999

Mahathir-Flag

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO FLY THE BN FLAG

KOTA BAHARU, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched a campaign to fly the Barisan Nasional (BN) flag throughout Kelantan to mark the BN's mission to recapture the state from PAS.

Dr Mahathir, who is here for a two-day visit to the state, witnessed the handing over of 225,000 BN flags to the 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan.

The flags were contributed by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah following his appointment as chairman of the Kelantan Umno liaison committee on June 20, taking over from Dr Mahathir who held the post since 1988.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that the campaign would instil determination in Umno leaders and members "to work even harder to restore the dignity of the people of Kelantan".

He chided PAS which had gone all out to fly the party's flag throughout the country especially in Kedah and near his home in the state.

"Putting up flags does not mean winning in the election. I am the one who decides the date (of the election). Let their flags be torn and tattered...we will then put up new flags," he said to the laughter of the people in the hall in the hotel here which could normally accommodate some 2,000 people.

Tengku Razaleigh said that the flags would be flown at the homes of all Umno voters to reflect the strength of the party.

"We will allow PAS to put up flags on mountains, tree-tops, pillars and ant-hills...but we will fly them at the homes of Umno supporters," he said, referring to the hundreds of flags put up by PAS in the state.

At the function, Dr Mahathir launched the book "PAS Pasti Tersungkur Di Kelantan, Insya-Allah" (PAS Will Surely Collapse In Kelantan, God Willing), by Datuk Ariffin Abdul Hamid, who is the Kelantan BN secretary.

The 150-page book deals with various issues pertaining to the political development in Kelantan especially since the 1990 general election and the weaknesses of the PAS administration in the state.

-- BERNAMA

TM RAR RM