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Mahathir-PAS

DR M: ACCEPTING A NON-MUSLIM AS PM IS PAS' PLOY TO GET CHINESE SUPPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PAS' promise to accept DAP leaders as the next Prime Minister if the so-called Alternative Front came to power is a ploy to garner support from the Chinese.

The Prime Minister said PAS would promise anything to get the support of the Chinese but it had been proven that the party did not even honour its promise to appoint a Deputy Menteri Besar for Kelantan from Parti Melayu Semangat 46 after the last general election.

"What more this promise to the DAP. I don't think the Chinese or the Indians will believe that PAS will accept a non-Muslim as the Prime Minister.

" What they say is only for the DAP's listening pleasure. In their closed-door ceramahs, they'll say it is only for the Malays. They'll say a different thing," he told reporters at the Deepavali open house of MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu here.

He was asked to comment on the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat on Friday that PAS was prepared to accept a non-Muslim, including from the DAP, as the next Prime Minister if the Alternative Front formed the government after the general election.

Dr Mahathir said PAS cannot be trusted as its leaders could say anything.

"Who can believe, one moment they say they want to establish an Islamic state, the next moment they drop Islam, they say Umno people are Muslims, after that they label Umno members as infidels. So, whatever they can say, they'll say it.

"As was said by Nik Aziz, if he sees a microphone, he cannot control himself, he must say something, if he wants to tell lies, he will do so," he added.

Meanwhile, MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, who was also at the open house, said the Chinese community and the non-Muslims were matured enough not to be fooled by PAS' tactics.

" The motive is to fish for votes. The Chinese will not believe and will not support. They know PAS' objectives and its struggles were not for the country but only for one race," he said.

He said it was the Barisan Nasional (BN) that protected the interests of all races in Malaysia.

Opposition parties had always been inconsistent in their views and stand and as such, they cannot be trusted or depended on, said Lim, who is Human Resources Minister.

"PAS seemed to be desperate," he added.

Samy Vellu likened PAS leaders' actions to be that of a "drunkard or a power crazy man" promising all sorts of things that cannot be fulfilled if the party formed a new government.

"It's easy to make suggestions but the difficult part is in implementing them," he said, adding that the people would eventually know PAS' antics.

PAS would ruin the country if it came to power, said Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister.

"PAS cannot even develop one state, how it is going to develop the whole country, he said in a clear reference to Kelantan, the only state under opposition rule.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, when met at the open house, said PAS' promise to accept a non-Muslim as Prime Minister showed the party and its allies in the Alternative Front have lost the people's support.

"The promise stemmed from their realisation that the opposition front has lost the support. The promise was made to bring back the people's attention towards them. I believe the people's support will erode further (as a result of their latest action), he said.

He believed that non-Muslims in Malaysia would not be hoodwinked by the political gimmicks of PAS as it was known for its inconsistencies.

Previously, PAS adopted a firm stand on various issues including on the question of the country's leadership and its plan to implement hudud laws in Malaysia, said Khalil, who is Information Minister.

"They've stopped talking about all these. Now, they're only interested on how to woo support from non-Muslims," he said.

Kelantan Umno deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa said Nik Aziz made the statement because PAS realised it cannot form the next government replacing BN.

He said PAS knew that it would not be held responsible for its statements and thus, it would go on making promises that cannot be honoured.

PAS and the Alternative Front aspired to emulate the BN's concept of power-sharing but they have failed as the basis of their struggles were fragile and dangerous to the multi-racial politics practised in Malaysia, he said.

The BN government's policies never overlooked the interests of non-Muslims and this approach had help nurture the politics of tolerance among the leaders and people, said Annuar, who is Rural Development Minister and Kelantan BN chairman.

" It's the implementation of a formula acceptable to the majority and guaranteed stability. It's not a question of Muslims or non-Muslims," he added.

-- BERNAMA
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