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Mahathir-BN

DR M: COOPERATION AMONG BN COMPONENTS CRUCIAL TO FORM STRONG GOVT

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Close cooperation among Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties in this election is crucial as the coalition is facing straight fights in 153 of the 193 parliamentary seats at stake.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said they should also provide full support to BN candidates in efforts to form a strong government.

"We can secure a two-thirds majority in Parliament by winning 128 seats but we want more. If we win with a simple majority, we can only form a weak government," he said when addressing the State BN election machinery here tonight.

Dr Mahathir said a weak government cannot make decisions for the people's well-being.

For instance, the imposition of capital controls to revive the depressed economy was possible as Malaysia had a strong government, said Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman.

He said the party's victory was paramount than the candidate.

"It is BN that is contesting...the people we field as a candidate is the BN," he said.

Dr Mahathir said BN would lose or win with a slim majority without the support of component parties.

He also urged the coalition's election workers to ensure BN supporters come out to vote on polling day.

He said many BN supporters did not bother to come out to cast their ballots thinking that the coalition would definitely win the election.

"It's our responsibility to take the voters to the polling centres to vote," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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