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Mahathir-Sabah (Election)

ELECT BN TO ENSURE BRIGHT FUTURE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today appealed to the people of Sabah to elect Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates for a bright future and their well-being.

In a special message to Sabahans recorded for airing over television, Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that they would elect the BN to set up a strong and solid government.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said the federal government promised to extend full cooperation to a state government led by the BN.

He made the recording for television at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, here, upon his return from a two-day visit to Sabah.

The people of Sabah will start casting their votes tomorrow in a state election that is said to be the most intense in the state's history, after 10 days' campaigning.

A total of 199 candidates are vying for the 48 seats in the state assembly with 144, or more than two-thirds coming from the three main parties, Barisan Nasional (BN), Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and Bersekutu, which are contesting in all the constituencies.

Dr Mahathir said the BN government comprised representatives from various communities and its component parties who were willing to cooperate at the federal and state levels.

"Surely it is easier for the federal government to cooperate with a state government made up of one party (BN)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he believed that the people of Sabah would choose the BN based on his observation while in the state and their support for BN candidates.

He congratulated Sabahans for ensuring that there were no ugly incidents or rioting in the campaigning for the election and for the solidarity that they had displayed.

He said Malaysia was unique in that its multiracial people were able to live in peace and harmony.

"The government wants to say that this is one of the results of the BN government's rule, that is, we have succeeded in bringing the communities closer together and in evolving a harmonious society," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that with racial unity the country was stable and faced no problems, unlike some other developing countries that were experiencing racial riots.

Dr Mahathir said that through the BN, the government had succeeded in forming a peace-loving society that enjoyed the good life.

Such a situation enabled the country to overcome its problems properly and calmly, he said, citing the example of the economic turmoil resulting from the drop in the currency value and the stock market.

"We should value the harmony and maintain the stability," he said.

"I'm more confident that BN will score a victory not only by a simple majority but will be able to form a stronger government," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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