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Full recovery only if foreigners not allowed to interfere

SEREMBAN, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight that if the people want to see a full recovery of the economy they must not allow foreigners to interfere in the country's affairs.

The Prime Minister said the people could do this by voting in the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election.

He said if they gave the mandate to Opposition parties like Pas, they would be opening the country to interference by outsiders.

He said Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor had already stated the party was in favour of the International Monetary Fund.

He said the BN would implement policies that would help to revive the economy further.

He believed that the people were more confident of their own capabilities and would not be easily influenced or allow themselves to be easily colonised.

"I believe the people will vote in the (BN) Government to bring about a strong economy," said Dr Mahathir at a dinner attended by about 25,000 people at the Negri Sembilan padang.

The dinner has been registered as the biggest held in the country by the Malaysia Book of Records.

Dr Mahathir said the people should realise that the Opposition did not have the capability to run the country.

"Even before they could rule, form the government, they have started to tell lies, distorted facts on religion and sought the support of foreigners."

"Therefore, the people should give the mandate to the BN so that together we can continue to develop the country and achieve the desired goals," he said.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners were helping the Opposition not because they liked them but because they were unhappy with the Government which did not give in to their demands.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president and BN chairman, said it was the responsibility of the people and the Government to tackle the country's affairs without allowing outside interference.

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