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Abdurrahman-Malaysia

GUS DUR, CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, WANTS TO WORK ON MALAYSIAN MODEL

By: Openg Onn

JAKARTA, June 9 (Bernama) -- An Indonesian presidential hopeful, Abdurrahman Wahid, who is confident that his National Awakening Party (Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa, PKB) would take over the lead from Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (Partai Demokratik Indonesia-Perjuangan, PDI-P), said he would follow the Malaysian model in its economic planning if elected as President.

He said in Malaysia although the economy was still predominantly in the hands of the Chinese, the bumiputeras had a major role to play under the New Economic Policy.

"Like Malaysia, we too do not want to create an Islamic state for Indonesia," he said in an interview with the Malaysian press here.

Abdurrahman, affectionately known as Gus Dur, said from the voting trend so far it was obvious that the Indonesians rejected the Islamic-based parties.

In Malaysia the Islamic-based party PAS was not generally acceptable except in Kelantan where it formed the state government, he said.

"The fact that my politics tread along nationalistic line does not mean that I am not Islamic in my approach. This is true in the case of Malaysian Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad or leader like (Kedah Menteri Besar, Tan Sri) Sanusi Junid," he added.

He said the voting trend in Monday's election suggested that those who really understand Islam supported the PKB which is oriented towards "Pancasila."

PKB is banking on support from the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), a Muslim social organisation of 30 million members mostly in the densely populated Java island. Gus Dur, looked upon as a mystical religious cleric by his supporters, is head of the NU.

He said his optimism of PKB's victory over the PDI-P led by Megawati Sukarnoputri was based on the fact that substantial votes for the party had yet to be tabulated by the Election Commission.

With less than three per cent of the vote counts received so far, PKB is trailing behind PDI-P, with the ruling Golkar Party in third spot.

-- BERNAMA

OPP AO