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IPF

IPF SINCERELY WANTS TO HELP BN, SAYS ABU HASSAN

PETALING JAYA, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery in all divisions in Selangor will be asked to seek and accept assistance from members and supporters of the Malaysian Indian Progressive Front (IPF) in facing the coming general election.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, as Selangor BN chairman, said the IPF appeared to be sincere in wanting to assist the BN in winning and defending the national leadership in the coming general election.

BN needed cooperation from every group who are not components of the BN such as the IPF to assist the coalition in winning the coming general election, he said when officiating the Special Assembly of the Selangor IPF, here today.

Abu Hassan said the IPF had helped by campaigning for the BN when he was contesting the Permatang State Legislative Assembly seat in 1997 before being appointed Menteri Besar, succeeding Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib.

There are 1.2 million voters in Selangor and 500,000 of them are members of the BN component parties.

"Thus, apart from the BN efforts, assistance from other groups outside the party such as the IPF is also needed to appeal to the other voters to support the BN," he said.

Abu Hassan said the IPF support was also needed as they had an influence on the voters particularly the ethnic Indians staying in the estates.

He said although the IPF application to become a member of the BN had yet to be approved, they should be patient.

"What is most appropriate for IPF members now is to work hard and cooperate in carrying out the important task to ensure that the BN wins in the coming general election and prove to the world that Malaysians remain united in supporting the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

Abu Hassan said although the IPF is not yet a member of the BN, the party had been given recognition by the BN leadership by appointing IPF president M.G. Pandithan as a member of the Dewan Negara previously.

Meanwhile in PETALING JAYA, the IPF today kicked off its "Election Campaign for Barisan Nasional" programme in an effort to ensure victory for the coalition government.

Pandithan said the IPF was campaigning for BN because it believed in the party's struggle for the people and it (IPF) wanted to ensure that the ruling party would win with a bigger majority.

Although the IPF had not been accepted into the BN fold, its heart and soul had always been in the coalition ruling party, he said at the launch of the programme.

"The only thing that blocked IPF from becoming a member of BN is the consensus system practised by BN, but IPF will not give up but continue with the struggle in the hope of becoming a member even if it takes a 100 years," he said.

According to him, the programme would be launched in all states in the peninsula and was aimed at consolidating efforts and preparing members to assist BN for the general election

He said the programme was also to "console and give stamina" to members who were deeply hurt by a recent comment by a BN component party leader who said that BN did not need IPF assistance in facing the general election.

"IPF members will support and campaign for all BN's candidate in the coming general election," he said adding that the party continued to support BN because of its full confidence in Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"We will also help to campaign for MIC president, Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu," he said.

Pandithan also said that the IPF would not seek or make demands for rewards for its effort in helping BN in the general election because "rewards are meant to be rewarded and not to be demanded."

On allegation that some IPF members are defecting to other parties, he said: "There is no reason for them to run away because they are so committed to the party's struggle and BN leadership."

--BERNAMA

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