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Mahathir-Campaign

MAHATHIR "SOUNDS" SIGNAL TO STORM THE OPPOSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Barisan Nasional election campaign when he "sounded" the signal for the BN Youth and Wanita movements to storm the opposition and ensure a two-thirds majority for the BN in the Nov 29 general election.

Addressing some 15,000 Youth and Wanita members of the BN component parties at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and BN chairman, called on the BN Youth members to ensure that the general election proceeded smoothly and peacefully and the BN was returned to power.

The BN Wanita members were told to seek out the voters and explain to them the actual situation in the country so that they would not be confused as a result of lies and allegations of the opposition and would give their votes to the BN.

"The signal has been sounded...go on to your respective constituencies and proceed with our struggles for the race, nation and religion," he said.

The BN Youth and Wanita members responded by shouting "Hidup Barisan!" (Long Live Barisan), "Hidup Mahathir!" (Long Live Mahathir) and singing patriotic songs.

It was his first meeting and address to BN component party members following the dissolution of parliament on Nov 11.

Dr Mahathir said it was vital that the BN Youth cooperate with the enforcement officers to ensure a peaceful situation as there was a possibility the opposition especially the National Justice Party (Keadilan) would resort to riots so that the election would be a failure when the party finds it does not have the support of the people.

He said that the opposition would create trouble so that the general election would be unsuccessful when they realise that they would definitely be defeated and maybe trounced 100 per cent.

"Keadilan will be the one to be defeated 100 per cent. When the general election has proceeded halfway and there is no support for them, and out of disappointment, their leaders will ask them to riot as this is the way of the Keadilan -- rioting in the streets," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that his orders of the day were to ensure that the Youth and Wanita members were organised and disciplined during the election campaign to be effective in their respective constituencies.

He also reminded everyone in the BN not to question the selection of the BN candidates when a decision had been made and instead give their solid support and work hard to ensure the victory of all the candidates.

The prime minister then called on the BN Youth and Wanita members at the Tun Abdul Razak Hall to stand and repeat after him a pledge to that effect.

"We will support, vote, ensure that the people vote, for all the BN candidates, from whatever party, race... We pledge that all BN candidates are our candidates," he said in leading the pledge. Those present repeated after him in very high spirit.

Dr Mahathir congratulated the Wanita BN members who succeeded in carrying out their duties in having voters to register and in ensuring that the womenfolk went out to vote in the previous general elections.

The number of women who registered as voters was 54 per cent of the total and 59 per cent of the voters who went out to vote were women.

"For the BN, women have the same rights as men. They are entitled to become candidates, to become national leaders just like the men," he said.

He said that the Wanita BN had a vital role and they need to make the women voters realise that PAS, which had insulted the role of women, should be rejected.

The prime minister said that the BN government, in power for 42 years, had been successful in developing the nation in terms of the physical aspects and also in instilling a spirit of determination among the people.

Malaysia had been successful in organising world events like the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 1989, the Commonwealth Games last year, and recently the Formula One Race and several Malaysians had managed to chalk world records by climbing the Everest, walk and making a free fall at the North Pole and sail solo round the world on a West-East route.

He said that the BN's efforts and struggles were not over and much more had to be done to develop the nation and build up the spirit of the people.

"We cannot allow any other party to win in the country. We will ensure that the BN obtains two-thirds majority," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the BN would not succeed if party members were to squabble to become candidates and refuse to accept and support candidates decided by the party.

"The factor which can make us fail is not our number, our finances...what can make us fail is if we were to fight to become candidates," he said.

The BN would only win if its members had the discipline and all members work hard to ensure the victory of all the BN candidates, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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