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Musa-Mahathir

MAHATHIR WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD IF UMNO STILL ACCEPTS HIM

BANGI, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- A former deputy prime minister, Tan Sri Musa Hitam said today Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would continue to lead the country if Umno still accepted him.

"So based on my understanding, as long as Umno accepts Dr Mahathir and as long as Umno wins the general election and becomes a majority party in Parliament, Dr Mahathir will continue to become Prime Minister," he said.

Musa said this in reply to question from a participant of a public lecture at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) on "Malaysia in Globalisation Era: A View of Former Deputy Prime Minister", here.

In this context, Musa said Malaysian politics was still very much "Umno centric" and "Malay centric", based on Umno's position as the biggest party and in control of Parliament.

Musa also said that Dr Mahathir believed in what he did. "Dr Mahathir has great confidence in himself and what he does. That's his character."

He said Dr Mahathir was also particular even over seemingly trivial matters like ensuring that street lights were properly placed.

"He's just amazing, I'm not sure there are others like him in many things," he said.

Musa said that under the present system, the people would chart the future course of the country through the voting power.

"The ballot is still secret. Many people oppose the government and a party which opposes the government also got elected. But don't forget, according to democracy, majority of one vote is still a majority," he said.

Musa also said a political system which placed loyalty to an individual's personality and not his contribution to society could have bad effect.

"To me, the situation will be worst if our political system, more so in the ruling party, gives loyalty to personality rather than service to the community," he said.

--BERNAMA

RV RON ABG