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Khalil-BN

MALAY SILENT MAJORITY WANT BN TO CONTINUE ADMINISTERING COUNTRY

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's allegation of arsenic poisoning will not upset the momentum of the Malays' support for Barisan Nasional because two-thirds of the silent majority want BN to continue ruling the country, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said today.

He said the feedback received showed that the allegation did not affect support for the BN which was increasing following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visits to the states.

"The silent majority want the government to continue the development process. Who doesn't want development...what they don't want is friction among themselves and with the other races," Khalil, who is Information Minister, said after chairing the National Disaster Management and Relief Committee meeting, here.

He said the majority of the people wanted the peace and political stability in the country to continue and this could only be done by the BN which had a good and proven track record.

Khalil said the former deputy prime minister's claim of being poisoned would not give the opposition any advantage because the people could assess the situation for themselves.

"Even the villagers know about politics...don't underestimate their thinking. Maybe on the first or second day there is some sympathy, that's all," he said.

He said Malaysians did not want to see extremism and violence and he urged the opposition to contest in the general election and let the people be the judge.

Unlike BN, the opposition parties did not have a track record to show although some of them, like PAS, had been in existence for a long time, he said.

On PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's defence of the non-Muslim leaders who gave a ceramah at the National Mosque on Sunday, Khalil said PAS had criticised Umno for befriending non-Muslims in BN even though the non-Muslims had not entered the mosques and yet it was now allowing the non-Muslims to enter the mosques because it had just befriended them.

Three non-Muslim leaders from Parti Keadilan Nasional and the DAP had spoken from the balcony of the National Mosque during the assembly by Anwar's supporters on Sunday.

-- BERNAMA

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