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Khalil-Tour

OPPOSITION CRITICISM PROVES TOUR'S SUCCESS - KHALID

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent tour of the country was a success and that is why it was strongly criticised by the opposition, said Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

He said Dr Mahathir's visits and speeches were well received by thousands of people in all the places he went to.

"The opposition's strong criticism of the series of visits by the prime minister to all over the country is proof of their success," he said when interviewed over TV1's "Gemilang Malaysia" programme tonight.

"I believe the people will once again give their mandate not only to the prime minister but to the BN as a whole," he said.

Khalil rejected opposition claims that Umno divisions, and those of other Barisan Nasional component parties, had been used to order or induce people to come and hear Dr Mahathir speak.

"We only told them (about the visits) and the members knew of their responsibility to approach, greet and meet the leaders," he said.

Khalil, who is the information minister, said the response from university and college students met by Dr Mahathir during the tour disproved the claim that they were anti-government.

"The response to the prime minister's visit to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara and a teachers training college in Perlis was beyond expectation.

"I really believe that the view (that students are anti-government) is not true," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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