

10 JUN 1999

OPPOSITION WANTS OBSERVER TEAM FOR GENERAL ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Four opposition parties today called for the setting up of a team comprising members of the international community and Malaysians to observe the next General Election.

The membership of the team should be agreed to by both the government and the opposition parties and it would report on any dirty tactics and identify those responsible for such activities, according to a statement issued this evening.

The statement was signed by PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor, Parti Keadilan Nasional President Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang and Parti Rakyat Malaysia President Dr Syed Husin Ali.

The four opposition leaders rejected the Prime Minister's comment that the general election would be the dirtiest in Malaysia's history because of the opposition parties.

They said, the opposition parties, mentioned in the statement as alternative parties, did not at all have the tool or machinery to employ any form of dirty tactics.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said the next general election would become dirtier because opposition parties would sanction coarse, disgusting, dirty and obscene language. The opposition leaders said they had never approved of coarse and dirty words in their ceramahs and had advised speakers to air their views politely.

-- BERNAMA

AU AAM