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Mahathir-Umno (Kelantan)

SET DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND WIN BACK KELANTAN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a united Umno front is the key to winning back Kelantan from PAS in the next general election.

Umno could unseat the PAS-led state government if its leaders and members could put discipline and the party first, said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president.

PAS took control of the state government in the 1990 general election and retained it in the last one in 1995.

For the sake of the party, Kelantan Umno leaders and members should set aside their differences, he said.

In this context, they should no longer question the position of former members of the now-defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) who have rejoined Umno.

"There's no need to ask where they come from...as long as they are bona fide Umno members, they have the same rights as other Umno members," he said addressing Kelantan delegates to the Umno general assembly at a luncheon here today.

Dr Mahathir is Kelantan Umno liaison chief.

Also present were state Umno deputy liaison chief Datuk Annuar Musa and former S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who is also the Gua Musang Umno division chief.

Dr Mahathir said Umno members should not fear about taking on PAS.

"We must argue with them with facts," said.

In his speech, Annuar, who is also Rural Development Minister, said former S46 members who have rejoined Umno were well-received and have earned their place in Umno.

Some of them were even divisional delegates or represented the state when debating the motions tabled at this general assembly, he said.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ RYN