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Mahathir-Traitors

SOME MALAYS BETRAYED RACE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described Malays who were envious of the economic success of their own race and preferred the views of foreigners unhappy to see peace in the country as traitors.

The Prime Minister said this group of people often alleged that bumiputeras who have made it were government cronies.

"Whoever is rich and successful will be termed a crony which meant that people cannot become rich, only then will there be no crony.

"If noone among the Malays is rich, then the Malays will forever lag behind other races and the feeling of envy and hate against others will lead to riots," he said in launching the Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto for the 10th general election here tonight.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said the traitors would rather see others become rich and for foreigners to come in and plunder the country.

"This sort of Malays are found in Keadilan dan PAS," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government assisted the poor in the country by expanding the economy and not by robbing the rich to give to the poor "like Robin Hood".

"By expanding the economic cake, we are able to give to the less privileged. That is our method," he said.

On a point in the BN manifesto that all are equal before the law, Dr Mahathir said the laws of the country did exempt anyone.

He said no one was above the law, not even himself.

"If I committed an offence, I can be charged. If Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi committed an offence, he too can be charged," he said.

Dr Mahathir said some people talked of the rule of law but when they were charged in court, they alleged the laws were unfair.

"The people who said the rule of law must prevail, when charged in court, turned around to allege a conspiracy. Such people do not practice what they preach," he said.

At a press conference later, Dr Mahathir said former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim claimed he could not be sacked but that other Ministers could.

"If he was charged in court, he would allege it was a conspiracy," the Prime Minister said in rejecting claims of a conspiracy as he said it was impossible for him to conspire with hundreds of people in order to get Anwar arrested.

Asked to comment on Anwar's decision not to stand in the 10th general election fearing his nomination would be rejected, Dr Mahathir said: "Anything he (Anwar) does will be blamed on the government, that nothing is right".

He said Anwar had the attitude that he was always right and "keeps insisting he is innocent".

-- BERNAMA

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