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Yusof-Umno

TAKE DR MAHATHIR'S CALL AS A REMINDER, UMNO MEMBERS TOLD

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 22 (Bernama) -- Umno members should take as a reminder Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to Barisan Nasional component parties not to question the selection of candidates for the general election.

Umno Information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said the Prime Minister's call was a reminder to them to give priority to unity and not self interest.

He said Dr Mahathir's reminder was to ensure party members do not to change the long-established norms which had been well accepted by BN component parties.

"Dr Mahathir made the call as there may be intense lobbying (to become candidates) this time around," he told reporters here today.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, asked BN component party members not to dispute the candidates chosen to contest in the general election.

Yusof said the norm of not questioning the choice of candidates had been well-received by all BN component parties in previous elections to ensure victory for the 14-member coalition.

"Don't make the candidate issue as our target. Our objective is to ensure the country's prosperity by accepting the decision made with wisdom by the party leadership," he said.

Dr Yusof also took a swipe at PAS by challenging the party to display good organisational management if they wanted to offer their services to the country.

"In terms of organisational management also they have failed... what more if they rule the country. They have different management systems in the states. PAS in Kedah is not the same as in Terengganu and also in Kelantan.

"How are they going to run the country as they can't set a good example even in managing an organisation," he said.

He said a party that had failed in its administration should not be given an opportunity to rule the country and to continue the government's development agenda.

He also said there was a big difference in the quality of present PAS leaders as compared to the party's founders who acknowledged the government's achievements and showed the right path.

"Although in the opposition, we appreciate the founders of PAS as they are eloquent speakers and have substance in their criticisms. Present PAS leaders despite being the Nursyidul Am or Tok Guru, they do not show the way but instead close the existing path," he said.

Asked to comment on a press report today that a certain group was circulating copies of prayers asking Allah to send wolves to devour Umno leaders and to blind the people, Dr Yusof said it was an unusual act as in Islam, the Muslims were encouraged to pray for good things.

"How are we going to pray to God asking for calamity to befall on fellow Muslims. Even to non-Muslims, we urge God to show them the right path," he said.

He said praying to God for calamities was an unbecoming act and it reflected the personality of a jealous person.

-- BERNAMA

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