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Mahathir-Election

THE COMING ELECTION WILL BE THE DIRTIEST, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dar Mahathir Mohamad said today that the coming election will be the dirtiest in history as the opposition will resort to all sorts of threats and instigations and assisted by foreign manipulators and their media.

He said that the election would be made even dirtier as the opposition had sanctioned vulgarity and they had already embarked on such action in their ceramah.

Signs indicating this could be seen from the actions of the opposition, he told a news conference after opening the annual general assembly of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), here.

"Supporters of the opposition comprise those who have taken part in demonstrations last year and I am sure they will resort to violence to achieve their objective," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "I'm giving my assurance that we will not resort to dirty tactics...the BN will not resort to dirty tactics."

He said that the BN would not seek the help of foreigners as the party believed the people were proud of their freedom and would choose a party free of the manipulation of foreign powers.

"The campaign period should not be long because we have had this experience in 1969 when we had a long campaign period and tension built up and in the end there was the racial riots.

"We will try to maintain security in the country but at present safeguarding the nation's security is a problem because the foreign media...their TV (crew) will trail the police (and) if the police were to hit a demonstrator, that's what they will show.

"Besides, when the police were to use a little violence to control the situation, they will record this and the footage will be shown throughout the world with the purpose of tarnishing our image," he said.

He said that some foreign media agencies were already lending their support to the opposition as "I have been described as a dictator who had assaulted Datuk Seri Anwar (Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister) and frame charges against him."

"They are using the foreign media to attack us. You've read...has the foreign media anything good to say about us?"

"The foreign media has accused me of being a dictator who supplied hundreds of million of dollars to Nelson Mandela for the ANC in the general election in South Africa," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "The foreign media works for the opposition and if the local media wants to support the opposition we cannot stop. Some of them are illegal papers and nothing can be more dirtier than the internet messages from the opposition."

"There is no reason for the opposition to accuse the BN government of being dirty...they are dirty," he said.

To a question as to whether only Malays can become the prime minister in the country, Dr Mahathir said: "There is no such provision in the constitution...I only follow the constitution."

-- BERNAMA

GM RM