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Mahathir-PAS

THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CHEATED IF SUPPORTING PAS

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people will continue to be cheated if they vote for PAS in the general election.

The Prime Minister said PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) are two parties that cheat the people to get their votes.

He said that with polling only three days away, the two parties will resort to all sorts of cheating including a letter purportedly written by him.

"He says he has six boxes of documents. Now he is purportedly releasing these documents, not real documents," he said, referring to such claim by Keadilan Youth chief Mohamad Ezam Mohamad Nor.

"This is a party which cheats. If the people give their votes to people who cheat, they will be cheated," he said at a news conference after laying the foundation stone for the Tendong-Wakaf Che Yah Bridge at Sekolah Kebangsaan Othman Talib, Tendong, 15km from here.

A reporter had earlier shown photocopies of several flyers to belittle Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders and another purportedly written by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in support of PAS candidates in Kelantan.

These flyers were distributed at the Masjid Muhammadi, Kota Baharu where the Prime Minister and the Sultan of Kelantan joined the people in performing the Friday prayers.

One of the flyers claimed that the BN leaders were united to safeguard their own interest.

"PAS unite with the DAP in whose interest?" said Dr Mahathir who is confident that the BN will recapture Kelantan from PAS in this general election.

He said it was PAS which divided the Malays.

Dr Mahathir said Umno could accept PAS supporters as Muslims for the sake of Islamic unity.

"We want at least in religious obligations, in adhering to Islamic teachings we are not divided," he said.

He said Umno and PAS might have different approaches to politics, it should not should involve religion.

Dr Mahathir recalled during his young days where the Malays never question whether another Malay was a good Muslim or not as they considered all Malays were Muslims.

When PAS came, it started to segregate the Malays by claiming that those who were not in PAS and not supporting PAS were not Muslims, he said.

Asked on actions which could be taken against Harakah for frequently publishing libellous articles, Dr Mahathir said: "If we take action, they will say that we are afraid and so on."

"They will then appeal to their friends outside the country. The CNN, CNBC will then spread neww that we are cruel, that's their intention," he said.

Even know, the prime minister said the CNN claimed that the general election was not fair and corrupt, causing the opposition to lose.

"But the fact is they know that they are going to lose. That's why they says they cannot win because of corruption," he said.

On Kelantan, he said the BN had better chances to recapture Kelantan than in 1995 because PAS no longer enjoyed the support of Parti Melayu

Semangat 46 which had been dissolved to allow its members to join Umno.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir had a closed door meeting with state BN leaders and candidates at the Kelantan Umno headquarters in Kota Baharu. Kelantan has 43 state hand 14 parliamentary seats.

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