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Mahathir-BN

TREAT COMPONENT CANDIDATES AS BN CANDIDATES, SAYS MAHATHIR

LABUAN, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition members should treat election candidates from any of the component parties as BN candidates.

Such selfless and cooperative attitude towards one another would ensure a landslide victory for the BN in the coming general election, said Dr Mahathir who is BN chairman and Umno president.

"What's important is upholding the spirit of mutual help and to regard all candidates as BN candidates and not as representing individual component party... and we make sure the BN wins," he said.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters after meeting 200 leaders of BN component parties in the Labuan Federal Territory namely Umno, MCA, Gerakan, MIC and Parti Maju Sabah (SAPP - Sabah Progressive Party).

Dr Mahathir said the opposition alliance lacked any agenda to develop the country and it merely came into being to contest in the coming general election.

The prime minister said what the opposition parties were doing was to incite the people to hate the BN and him and to vote for them.

"There is nothing that they themselves (the opposition) can do to benefit those who voted for them," he said.

Asked how much Labuan residents had grasped the prime minister's explanation on the various political and economic issues, Dr Mahathir said he was convinced that they knew the true situation and trusted the federal government and the BN's ability in running the country.

"I'm convinced that they strongly support the BN but I think I still need to explain to them," he said.

On the preparedness of the BN machinery in Labuan for the coming general election, Dr Mahathir said: "They're ready... can contest anytime."

-- BERNAMA

MT NMO RYN