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Rafidah-Vocie

TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY ENSURES MALAYSIA'S VOICE IS HEARD

TAIPING, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- The more than two-thirds majority secured by the Barisan Nasional (BN) up till today enabled the government to champion Malaysia's rights as well as those of developing countries in the international arena, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"If we are supported only by a portion of the people, our strength will be weak. But if we secure support from more than two-thirds of the people, they (the international community) will know that what we are expressing is the aspiration of the Malaysian people," she told reporters after officiating the I-Berhad incubator centre, here today.

Rafidah denied allegations that the government wanted to retain the big majority in the Dewan Rakyat so that it could easily amend the constitution.

"It is not merely amending the constitution. With the solid support of the people, if we say who don't want (to follow the wishes of others), people will know that it is the wish of the Malaysian people," she said.

She said that the strength derived through the people's support also enabled Malaysia to negotiate and have bargaining power in dealing with the international community on issues relating to her interests.

When asked to comment on the speech by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the 25th anniversary celebration of Barisan Nasional in Kuala Lumpur last night, Rafidah who is also Umno Supreme Council member said the Prime Minister's message was clear, that is the development enjoyed by the people now was achieved through the efforts of the BN government.

She also hit out at the groups who were inciting people not to be grateful to the government.

These groups, she said, rationalised that it was the government's responsibility to provide development and amenities.

"They forget that if the government does not have the means like the PAS government in Kelantan, all these facilities would not exist," she added.

-- BERNAMA

HJ AO