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T.Kemang-Mahathir

DR M: VOTE FOR BN WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD

PORT DICKSON, June 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged voters in the Teluk Kemang parliamentary constituency to elect the Barisan Nasional (BN) as it had proven to have brought progress and development to all Malaysians regardless of race.

The Prime Minister said if they voted for the Opposition, they would not get anything whereas the BN would continue to implement development programmes as promised in the election manifesto.

"The BN will stick to the promises that can be fulfilled.

"They are not promises that cannot be realised such as promises to send to heaven and things like that. Don't be influenced by efforts to hate the government. What we gain by that," he said in his message published in the Umno website www.umno.org.my.

Dr Mahathir said BN's winning chances looked bright and was confident that the coalition would be returned with a bigger majority than it secured in the last general election.

In the by-election being held following the death of Teluk Kemang MP S.A. Anpalagan on April 28, BN's S. Sothinathan is being challenged by Ruslan kasim of Parti Keadilan Nasional.

Dr Mahathir also denied Opposition claims that the BN would bring more development to Opposition-held constituencies to wrest the seats like in Kelantan.

"The water supply services in Kelantan is not satisfactory and the Kelantan government is seeking help from the federal government as it cannot provide clean water supply. This showed if the Opposition is elected, there'll be no assistance at all," he said.

Asked on the Opposition's move to use the mosque and temple issues in their campaigns, Dr Mahathir said such tactics could be disastrous to Malaysia's religious freedom and racial harmony.

He said PAS and Keadilan actually do not respect mosques as the place of worship of Muslims as evident from their actions to bring in non-Muslims into the National Mosque.

Dr Mahathir also urged the Malays who are the majority voters in Teluk Kemang to vote for the BN candidate although he was an Indian.

"The Malays must remember that in other areas where a Malay is a candidate but he needed the support of the Indians and Chinese to clinch a win for Umno. The same also applies to PAS in Malay-majority areas, if they don't get Chinese and Indian support, they cannot win.

"This time, the Malays have an Indian candidate, Hence, we must return the favour...in other places, the Chinese and Indians help us. We will lose if we do not help others because others will not help us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN had practised the policy of helping one another from the very beginning while PAS leaders who never want to do so before were now prepared to embrace with DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang merely to garner support.

On development in Teluk Kemang, he said the area had good infrastructure facilities and efforts would be made to continue providing such facilities apart from improving various assistance in the field of education to schools and teachers.

Asked on the Opposition's move to continue harping on the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) viral outbreak in their campaigns, Dr Mahathir said it would affect BN's winning chances because the government had done

everything within its means to tackle the problem.

"What did they (the Opposition) do for JE? How much help did they provide? What they know is to blame the government. It's not the government that brought the JE...it's a disease," he said.

In other countries, no government would pay compensation to a livestock industry facing problems, he said.

"I know even in Europe, when the mad cow disease spread, the governments did not pay compensation. In Malaysia, we gave a lot of assistance to control the disease," he said.

On the lack of support from the DAP to Keadilan in this by-election, Dr Mahathir said the DAP had realised that it had been cheated by PAS.

"Because they wanted to be friendly with PAS, the Malays did not support, the Chinese also did not support, Karpal (Singh) and Kit Siang lost," he said.

He said if the DAP showed that it could still cooperate with PAS and Keadilan in this by-election, the Chinese support for the DAP would erode further.

-- BERNAMA

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