

07 JUNE 2000

T.Kemang-Rewards

GOVT PREPARING TO REWARD THE PEOPLE - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Teluk Kemang voters would enjoy benefits if they voted for the Barisan Nasional (BN) as the government was arranging "rewards" for the people after the BN's victory in the last general election.

The Prime Minister said the voters of various races in Teluk Kemang should also opt for the BN as the governing coalition struggled for the people's interests in all aspects and not merely in politics.

"We will speed up the process of honouring the election promises (as contained in the election manifesto)," he said in his message to the Teluk Kemang electorate who will go to the polls on Saturday.

In his message posted in the Umno website www.umno.org.my, Dr Mahathir urged the voters to "hold to the truth" and not be taken in by the instigations of certain people who hate the government.

"We must hold to what is correct and true, ...not promises that cannot be fulfilled such as the promise to send to heaven and so on," he said.

The by-election is a straight fight between BN's S. Sothinathan and Ruslan Kasim of Parti Keadilan Nasional.

Dr Mahathir also chided the Opposition for harping on religious issues, urging the constituents to choose between the "mosque or temple."

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said that it was a dangerous move by the Opposition to warn the Malay voters that they were voting for the temples if they supported the BN in the by-election.

"I want to ask...if PAS becomes the government or if Keadilan becomes the government, will they destroy all the temples,?" he said.

Dr Mahathir urged the Malay voters to vote for Sothinathan to ensure continuity in the tradition of championing the people's cause.

He said the Malays must remember that in other areas where a Malay is the BN candidate, the Chinese and Indian support was needed to ensure Umno's victory.

He expressed confidence that the BN's winning chances in the by-election were very bright.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AHH TS