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Mahathir-Lunas

KEADILAN HAS NO OTHER AIM EXCEPT TO FREE ANWAR- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) has no other objective except to free Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Prime Minister said today.

"Hence they do not care what happens to the Malay race, the religion of Islam, the country's multi-racial society and the country itself. They will resort to issues of race and religion in the Lunas state by-election in Kedah to weaken the Malays," he said.

"To them, it does not matter if the Malays are divided for when the Malays are disunited, Umno will be weakened....," Dr Mahathir told the media after opening a seminar on the development of Islam and the threat from deviationist teachings at the Mines, Seri Kembangan near here.

Dr Mahathir said resorting to issues of race and religion by the opposition was expected as was the case in the recent Teluk Kemang by-election.

Dr Mahathir did not discount the possibility that some people would be influenced by racial and religious sentiments played up by Keadilan in the Lunas by-election.

"For instance they will say, for a long time they did not have a Malay candidate there...it has been years and at every election we do not have a Malay candidate," he said.

On the rift within the Opposition front, Dr Mahathir said this was expected from the very beginning for all the parties in the opposition pact were not on the same wavelength.

"They can be compared to people sleeping together but having different dreams," he said.

The party gaining from this pact was PAS while Keadilan was being used as a tool and the DAP was merely a passenger.

On the reported statement by DAP Secretary-General Kerk Kim Hock that Keadilan had bad intentions, Dr Mahathir said this was not surprising for even during its inception level, PAS, Keadilan, the DAP and the PRM had their respective intentions that is to mislead each other.

The Prime Minister said in reality all the parties within the opposition pact had racist attitudes even though each of them had denied it.

As to whether this development would prove to be an advantage to the BN in the by-election, Dr Mahathir said, "probably, probably not."

However a BN victory was not dependent on a weak opposition but on peoples' acceptance based on the noble service rendered so far in guaranteeing a good life for the people and bringing development to the country, he added.

-- BERNAMA

AKT HS AAM