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Mahathir-Government

DON'T TREAT THE QUESTION OF ELECTING THE GOVERNMENT LIGHTLY, MALAYSIANS TOLD

SIK, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- The Malays should not let success get the better of them to the extent that they would treat lightly the question of electing the government, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

"Don't think that because of the success achieved so far, there's no need for us to worry about the future of our grandchildren," said the Prime Minister at an informal meeting with Umno leaders in Sik and Baling Umno divisions at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama Sik here.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays should be concerned with the future of their grandchildren even with the success achieved by the country so far as there would be many challenges ahead.

"We want our grandchildren to continue to live as a free and independent people. We want our religion, race and country assured of a future," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that even though there were Malays successful in their respective endeavours, their success when compared to those of other communities was still not much.

As such, the Malays should remain united to ensure continuous success of their community, he said.

He said that in other parts of the world, not all governments were successful with their peoples continued to live in poverty and in some countries, civil unrest.

Dr Mahathir also said Umno's struggle was not over yet and it wanted to win elections so that its elected representatives could formulate the country's policies in defence of the dignity of the people and country.

"Election victories will enable us to serve the rakyat and bring development to the country, not to seek position and enjoy the comfort of air-conditioned room," he said.

He said that although Umno struggled for the Malays, Islam and country, the interest of the other communities were not neglected, as evidenced in the lyrics of Umno's song which said that "Umno is responsible for all communities".

Dr Mahathir also urged Umno members not to be obsessed with the question of election candidate to the extent of willing to vote for the opposition if their candidates were not selected.

He said they should not be influenced by tactics of the West that the Malays purportedly no longer care about Malay nationalism but rather basic rights issues.

"We have freedom of basic rights but based on our religion and culture. We don't want the sort of freedom as in the West," he said.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Sik Umno divisional head Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who is also the religious adviser to the Prime Minister.

-- BERNAMA

JM ABG