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Mohamed-BN

DR M TO DELIVER "IMPORTANT MESSAGE" AT BN CONVENTION, SAYS TOK MAT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver an "important message" at the Barisan Nasional (BN) Convention on July 7.

BN Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said more than 3,000 members and leaders of 13 component parties, including MPs, senators, assemblymen, city, municipal and district councillors would attend the one-day convention.

"This could be a history because the BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be addressing all elected representatives, municipal and district councillors as such a gathering has not been held before," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of BN executive secretaries here today.

Mohamed said Dr Mahathir's speech was crucial as the BN supreme council had decided earlier that the coalition had to be strengthened and to ensure component parties cooperate not only during election time.

"We do not want to be seen taking different approaches as such a move will mar the people's perception on the BN," he said.

Mohamed said the convention themed "BN The Country's Pillar of Strength" would also discuss the coalition's current position and seek new ways and approaches to achieve its objectives.

"We want the BN machinery at state and parliament levels to be activated," he said, adding that this would be among the new directives to be issued at the convention.

At present, only the Kedah and Sabah BN often held meetings to resolve problems in the two states, he said.

"We'll suggest that BN meetings at parliament and state levels be held as frequent as possible to promote better understanding and closer cooperation among grassroots members," he said.

Mohamed said Dr Mahathir would also launch a book and a video on BN during the convention.

"This is because there are many enquiries by political parties from other countries wanting to know more about the BN," he said.

The BN consists of Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan, People's Progressive Party (PPP), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP), Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS), United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) and Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP).

The ruling coalition had 14 component parties previously but the figure dropped to 13 after the recent dissolution of Sabah-based Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar).

-- BERNAMA

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