

24 SEP 2001

Mahathir-Reject

DR MAHATHIR WANTS SARAWAKIANS TO REJECT OPPOSITION

KUCHING, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wrapped up his whirlwind campaigning today by calling on the voters to reject the opposition parties in Thursday's Sarawak state election.

He said the peninsula-based opposition parties -- PAS, Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) and DAP -- only came to cause trouble in Sarawak whose previous state elections were calm.

"What is saddening is these parties have brought along negative culture like intimidating the people and using strong-arm tactics on voters in Sarawak who do not support them," he said when addressing a meet-the-people session at Stadium Perpaduan here tonight.

"Sarawakians must send a strong message that they and their unhealthy culture are not needed in Sarawak," said Dr Mahathir who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman.

The prime minister, who had earlier visited Sibu, left for Kuala Lumpur tonight.

He said the opposition from Peninsular Malaysia should not have come to Sarawak and it was enough for them to be "thrashed" in the peninsula.

The state BN comprising Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) and Sarawak National Party (SNAP) bagged four seats unopposed on nomination day last Tuesday.

BN is in the running for the remaining 58 seats along with Keadilan, DAP, PAS, State Reform Party (STAR) and 63 independents.

Dr Mahathir also questioned how the opposition parties could form the state government when they had not even fielded sufficient candidates to win the election.

He cited PAS which is only fielding three candidates while Keadilan nominated a frustrated lot who were not considered by the BN to be candidates.

Dr Mahathir was confident the people of Sarawak would not be duped by the persuasion of the opposition who were only good in making sweet promises merely to fish for votes.

Although opposition parties like the DAP were appealing to be given a chance to be in the state legislative assembly, the people need not pity them.

"Even though they are not in the assembly, they make all sorts of criticisms against the government in the 'Rocket' (their official organ)...we will allow DAP to keep their rocket and PAS their Harakah but they have no place in the state legislative assembly," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition coalition which claimed to be the alternative to BN were only "Angan-angan Mat Jenin" (day dreaming), while BN component parties had common principles to develop the country.

"The opposition parties are out to deceive each other for their selfish interests," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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