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BN-Mahathir (Winding-Up )

PM CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR BN

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident of continued support for the Barisan Nasional as the coalition has taken pains to explain issues as they arise to gain the confidence of the people.

Citing the example of the convention held today, Dr Mahathir said component party leaders were very forthcoming in their speech without hurdling any criticism at anybody, unlike the opposition.

"We are not the type of people who do not have an explanation (for things)...we do not curse anyone and are not rude like the opposition," he said in his winding up debate at the end of the one-day BN Convention at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir who is also BN chairman said the coalition would not use the methods of the opposition to answer allegations thrown at them.

"But instead we will expose their mistakes and drama," he added.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir also touched on the question of unity talks between Umno and PAS and said that Umno was not putting up an act in this matter.

Describing the convention as a success, Dr Mahathir said there was a fresh wave of enthusiasm among BN component parties.

"All leaders said that it was important for us to strengthen our front. Infact almost all said that we should focus not only on one race but on all races and parties," he added.

While saying that this was a wise approach, Dr Mahathir said a majority of the leaders called on every level within the BN to get closer to the people.

"We will all work towards forging closer ties between BN and the people especially among the young so as to gain their support and confidence," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said he was confident Malaysia would be able to realise its 2020 Vision following the commitment and unity showed at the convention today.

"This is a good sign for the future of BN. Our country needs BN for development," he said, adding that the suggestion to hold the convention over two days would be considered.

In conclusion, Dr Mahathir announced that RM160,306 has been collected from BN component parties for the Dewan Tuanku Canselor Building Fund which was destroyed in a fire last Friday.

-- BERNAMA

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