

22/06/2002

Support party candidates in polls, Dr M tells Kelantan members

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on party members from Kelantan to pledge that they would not resort to sabotage if they were not chosen as candidates in the coming general election.

The Prime Minister said all 10 division leaders from the State would also be asked to do the same.

He said Umno would be able to regain Kelantan from Pas if all party members supported candidates nominated by the leaders.

"If you give such a commitment to me, then I am confident we can win," Dr Mahathir said in his speech at a dinner hosted by the State liaison Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Among those present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Kelantan deputy liaison head Datuk Annuar Musa, Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Pasir Mas division head Datuk Ibrahim Ali and former Kelantan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Yaakob.

More than 2,000 members from the 10 divisions attended the gathering.

Dr Mahathir said not all of the Kelantanese favoured Pas, but many were disgusted with the internal bickering among the State Umno leaders.

"I heard this from the Kelantanese themselves.

"I am just revealing whatever I gathered as even if I did not say it out loud, they (Kelantanese) know about it.

"Those who were not selected must accept it."

In jest, Dr Mahathir said, he was willing to "stand on my head" if Umno and the Barisan Nasional could win Kelantan in the next general election.

He said he was still wondering why Umno could not regain control of Kelantan from Pas.

"Ibrahim always disagrees with me when I say that we still have hope in Terengganu, but not Kelantan.

"This time, however, I want to see whether my prediction will become true."

He said without their commitment, Kelantan Umno would face the same fate as France, which lost to Senegal in the World Cup finals.

Dr Mahathir said there were some Umno members who were more loyal to individuals than to the party.

"When these people are not selected as candidates, they do not see the need to vote.

"Some would even influence their friends not to vote for Umno or the Barisan Nasional.

"The Kelantanese are the most talented Malays, so much so, I think they are not really Malays," he said.

Unlike the Kedah people, he said, the Kelantanese preferred to migrate to other states to earn a living.

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