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Mahathir-Elections

BN WILL PERFORM BETTER IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, SAYS PM

SIK, March 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed confidence that the Barisan Nasional (BN) will perform better in the coming general election.

"In the event that a general election were to be held at any time, we will perform better than the 1999 general election," he told reporters after a meet-the-people session here.

He said that this was based on the encouraging response from the people now.

Dr Mahathir said that many people who were previously estranged from Umno have now returned to the party and this was a positive indication.

Earlier in his speech, the Prime Minister said that all Umno members must go all out to campaign for Malay unity in the next general election.

He said that this was vital to ensure that the aspiration to have a strong Umno-led government to protect the position of the Malays in the country was realised.

"If Umno is weak, it will be difficult to ensure the position of the Malays and Islam in the country," he said.

The Prime Minister called on the people to withdraw their support for PAS which he described as a party of traitors who were prepared to betray Islam and the Malays.

He said that PAS was prepared to do anything to make their dream of winning the election come true even if they have to resort to lies, profanity and defamation and to label Umno members as infidels.

"I hope that those in Sik will not make another mistake by voting for an elected representative who is good at vulgarity," he said.

In the last general election, PAS' Datuk Shahnon Ahmad who wrote the controversial novel 'Shit' won the Sik parliamentary seat by defeating the BN's Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

Dr Mahathir said that PAS was now putting up an act but at the same time accusing others of doing so.

Commenting on PAS' plan to record a pantomime which the party claims will depict what actually happened in Memali 17 years ago and distribute the recording throughout the country, the Prime Minister said: "PAS is actually putting up an act. The people are all too aware of PAS' lies and deceit."

Dr Mahathir also said that Muslims throughout the world were weak and oppressed by others due to lack of unity among them.

"Compared to the other races, they are strong because they were united even though they are a minority in certain countries. We do not want the Malays to also be divided in this country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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