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Mahathir-Election

DR MAHATHIR WILL NOT CONTEST IN NEXT ELECTION

ALOR SETAR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today he will not contest in the next general election and expressed the hope the people will not make any mistake when choosing the next government.

Nevertheless it was still his responsibility to correct the people's thinking which had been slanted by PAS, he said.

He said the mistaken beliefs of the people should be corrected so that they would not be cheated.

This was important so that they would not make any mistake when choosing the government in the next general election, he said at a meet-the-people session at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College where he once studied.

He said the PAS action in moving voters' names to ensure its candidates' victory was haram as it amounted to cheating.

They cheated by relocating PAS voters from an area where they expected to lose to an area where they expected to win and removed the names of BN voters from an area where the BN could win.

Dr Mahathir has been the Member of Parliament for Kubang Pasu in Kedah since 1974.

Dr Mahathir had earlier announced that he would relinquish all his party and government posts after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Kuala Lumpur next year.

"Voters must be wise and reject PAS altogether -- a party that cheats."

He said such cheating by PAS should not occur in the democratic system which existed to safeguard the people's interests.

"PAS leaders sanctioned cheating to win the election and gain power to serve their own interests," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia practised the democratic system where people in a particular area had the power to elect their own representative.

"The fate of the people in a particular constituency is determined by the voters in that particular area and not by voters from other areas," he said.

He said if voters from a particular area went and voted elsewhere they were not giving priority to the interests of the people in that area but to the interests of the party and other matters.

The situation was different when a candidate from a particular area stood elsewhere for election for then it would become his responsibility to serve in the area where he had been elected, he said.

"PAS has moved 3,000 voters from my area to reduce support for me to Anak Bukit (state constituency) and other areas," he said.

The Prime Minister said PAS aspired to take over Kedah in the next general election but not through the halal way.

They were using ways that were haram by moving voters' names from one place to another.

"The BN lost in Anak Bukit because many Umno voters' names had been removed from the area and names of PAS voters from elsewhere had been brought in," he said.

He said this amounted to large scale cheating by PAS which while claiming to be an Islamic party was at the same time involved in cheating to gain victory.

"Legally PAS won but from the aspect of religion, their victory is

haram. Hence the payment of allowance to the PAS representative in Anak Bukit is also haram."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had been peaceful and prosperous all this while because the people had been wise in choosing a government that abided by the rule of law.

"Hence we must jealously guard what we have chosen," he said.

He said the military, police and preventive laws including the Internal Security Act (ISA) helped ensure the nation's peace and security.

Dr Mahathir said the people and leaders in many countries including developed ones lived in fear, in fear of being attacked and killed because they did not have preventive laws.

"We do not use the preventive laws indiscriminately such as by enforcing them against our political rivals," he said.

He said the the concept of the "rule of law" should not only be practised by the government but also by the judiciary, the military, police and the administrators, only then the country would be safe.

-- BERNAMA

JM JM AAM