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Mahathir-BN

ABIDE BY DECISION ON SEAT ALLOCATION, BN COMPONENT PARTIES TOLD

JOHOR BAHRU, July 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to readily accept seats allocated to their respective parties in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir said that he was making the appeal at this early stage so that when a decision had been made by him as the BN chairman, they would abide by the decision.

"Let's say there are additional seats available (in the next general election). Inevitably, there will be BN component parties which will not get everything they want...but none will not get anything at all," he said when closing the Johor BN convention at the Johor Baharu City Council indoor stadium here.

Dr Mahathir said that all the 14 BN component parties must abide by the decision because the allocation would be done with fairness to all the parties.

"I'm appealing at this early stage...when I make the decision, please abide by it," he said.

Dr Mahathir raised the matter when he spoke on the core principles of the BN which strives to overcome differences through discussions.

"And sometimes we do get but sometimes we don't. Everyone wants more for himself...nobody wants less. But, sometimes we cannot get what we ask for, what we hope for and we must accept the fact that it's not our turn this time, that is if we do have additional seats," he said.

The BN chairman said that if there were additional seats available, the question of who and which parties would be allocated the seats would arise and certainly some may not get.

"There will be parties which will not get. But not altogether...just not getting what they want. They would want several seats...Umno may want all for itself, the MCA may want half the number. So, if Umno takes all, the MCA half the number, what will the MIC get? Certainly nothing," he said.

The prime minister said that all the component parties should accept this fact.

"Believe it... we'll make allocation with fairness to all parties. That's our way," he said to the applause of thousands of people present including Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Dr Mahathir also warned of the possibility that the various component parties may be frustrated as a result of shifts of constituencies and voters moved to another constituency.

"I'm saying this because eventually I'll be the one to decide and so I'm making an appeal at this early stage that when I make the decision, please abide by it," he said.

"But if we were to use the scale (the BN's symbol)...weighing what we should and shouldn't, I think it's more inclined to what we should...so, we should just accept it," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that he was always very happy when coming to Johor due to, among others, Johor's solid support for the BN and Umno. "Right from the beginning, Johor has been giving solid support to Umno," he said, adding that he truly hoped that Johor would maintain its 100 per cent BN victory in the next general election like in 1995 and 1999.

Dr Mahathir said that he wants the Johor BN to ensure that the people would continue to give their support to the BN and not allow the opposition especially PAS to erode the BN's strength in the state.

"Never allow PAS into Johor...its violence, lies and allegations, and misrepresentation of the religion will pollute the state," he said.

"As such, take care of Johor so that it remains clean and safe," he said.

Earlier, he and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were accorded a traditional welcome at the grounds of the stadium.

-- BERNAMA

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