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Mahathir-Opposition

OPPOSITION IS RAMBLING. SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, July 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the opposition parties to stop condemning and haranguing Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders.

"I ask that they observe the true Islamic teachings and be civil with Muslims and non-Muslims for the good of everyone," the prime minister said when addressing thousands of BN supporters who turned up to welcome him and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas, near here.

Over the past few days Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) had been airing clippings of a ceramah given by PAS central working committee member Mohamad Sabu, who had described Dr Mahathir as "gila" (mad). "haprak" (scum) and not fit to be a leader. RTM also aired excerpts of a poem by the PAS MP for Sik, Datuk Shahnon Ahmad, which, among others, called for Dr Mahathir's early death.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a one-day visit to Kedah, urged the BN supporters not to ape such behaviour and instead to leave the opposition leaders to answer to God for their actions.

"We don't want to fight with the opposition parties or to revile and condemn them because it is wrong to do such things. They are also rambling," he said.

Dr Mahathir also advised the people to elect candidates from parties that could bring them development.

He said that only the BN could do this while the opposition only made empty promises.

"I appeal to the voters to support BN to strengthen the government and also for the good of Islam, the race and country," he said.

On July 18, Kedah is facing two by-elections for the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state seats which fell vacant following the death of PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor on June 23.

On his intention to relinquish his government and political posts after October next year, Dr Mahathir said: "Let me stop and rest. I don't intend to be a leader forever. Now is the best time for me to rest while I'm still healthy."

-- BERNAMA

MAN MAI JK