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Mustapa-PAS

PAS FEELS THE HEAT FOLLOWING SOLID SUPPORT FOR UMNO

KOTA BAHARU, July 26 (Bernama) -- PAS is now desperate in wooing the support of the people to the extent that its leaders were making irrational proposals including implementation of the one-party system, said Kelantan Umno Liaison Chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

He said PAS had to resort to such things after the people had returned to give their solid support to Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Actually they (PAS) know that they are on top (in Kelantan) due to luck and not out of their own strength," he told reporters after opening the Delegates Meeting of the Puteri Saadong Area Farmers Association, here today.

Mustapa was commenting on the proposal by PAS spiritual advisor Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who wanted the one-party system being implemented to tackle the problems of unethical campaigns, as was seen recently in the by-election campaigns for the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state seats.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described the proposal by Nik Aziz as a move towards dictatorship.

Mustapa said the proposal by the Kelantan Menteri Besar was not consistent with democratic practices which gave freedom to the people to choose those who were capable to champion their cause and that of the country.

The problem of rough campaigns during elections could be overcome if the political parties complied with regulations, he said.

He was confident that rational people would reject the proposal.

Meanwhile, Mustapa, who is also Executive Director of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC), said the government was intensifying efforts to enable farmers to be progressive by achieving high productivity and reducing production cost.

He said most farmers were still poor due to low productivity to the extent that the government was forced to provide subsidy totalling RM500 million annually.

He said the Area Farmers Association should find ways so that farmers no longer depended on subsidy as the government would stop such subsidy as it did not want to burden people in the other sectors.

-- BERNAMA

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