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BN-Opposition  
PM'S INVITATION TO OPPOSITION IS SINCERE- DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's invitation to opposition parties to join the Barisan Nasional (BN) is sincere, MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

The invitation was issued with the objective of achieving unity, particularly in facing outside challenges, he said.

"There is no hidden agenda in the invitation, the opposition should actually study (the invitation) for the good of all, but they have not done that," he said.

Dr Ling was speaking to reporters at the Deepavali Open House of Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu at the Chung Hwa Secondary School Hall here.

However, Dr Ling said he was not surprised by the rejection as it was expected, considering the opposition, especially PAS, always had a negative view of any effort carried out by the BN government.

Meanwhile, Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the rejection by the opposition would not contribute to the progress of the various races in this country.

He said the move clearly showed that the opposition would not compromise even for a good cause but was instead only interested in toppling the BN government.

"Parties such as the DAP have already realised that the Alternative Front is to serve the objective of certain groups such as PAS," he said.

Dr Lim said Gerakan, which was an opposition party had accepted the invitation from Malaysia's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, to opposition parties to join the government and jointly develop the country.

"Therefore, it is pointless for them to continue being in the opposition and here I would like to openly urge the DAP to accept Dr Mahathir's invitation to join the BN," he said.

MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu meanwhile expressed the hope that the opposition would reconsider its decision to turn down the invitation.

The Prime Minister issued the invitation for the sake of political unity and national development, he said.

Asked whether the rejection, especially by PAS, showed that the party was arrogant, Samy Vellu said; "PAS has rejected it because they have their own political agenda for this country."

"We cannot expect anything from PAS as it is more concerned about safeguarding its own political interests," he said.

Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) President Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said the opposition's move in turning down Dr Mahathir's invitation was predictable.

"Nothing unexpected. What do you expect, they just want to be the opposition, they don't want to come forward," he said.

Meanwhile, UMNO vice-president, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin explained that Dr Mahathir's invitation was sincere.

He said differences in opinion existed even among BN component parties, but were eventually resolved through an attitude of openness.

"This is different with the opposition which will not want to compromise, that is why PAS has rejected the invitation," he said.

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