

07 APR 2003

Mohamed-Election

BE ON STANDBY TO FACE GENERAL ELECTION, CALL TO BN PARTIES

GEMAS, April 7 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat today reminded all BN party leaders at all levels to be on standby for the General Election which will be called at anytime eventhough it should be held only by 2005.

"For the BN I think we have no problem in facing the General Election as we are already fully prepared...we have fine tuned our position at all levels."

"I am not talking big...but it is imposible for the opposition to bring down this government as people know the BN government is a responsible one...they realise the benefits they have enjoyed so far due to their support for the BN," he told reporters here.

"We are confident that the people will continue to support the BN and return the BN for another five years. Nevertheless I hope the BN leaders at all levels will not be complacent and take the General Election lightly even though we are confident of the people's support and of our own strength."

"We must work hard. Each of the component parties must work hard to ensure victory for all BN candidates," he said.

"I also hope there will be no disunity. For I know that during every general election there will be a rush to become candidates...everyone wants to be a candidate...there will be much jostling and lobbying...memorandums will be flying here and there," he said.

Tan Sri Mohamed disclosed that he had just received several memorandums from people claiming that they were better qualified to be candidates than some others who were labelled as wicked and no longer suitable.

On top of that existing elected representatives were being slandered through these memorandums with a view to projecting their ownelves.

The BN Secretary-General also hoped BN component parties would not apply pressure on the BN leadership on the question of allocation of seats.

"There is no point also in lobbying through the press. I should have more or you should have less. We have been implementing a formula and this had been accepted by all BN component parties," he said.

"Once a decision had been made by the leadership on allocation of seats all will have to accept the decision and work hard to ensure victory for the BN candidates," Tan Sri Mohamed said.

On the MCA, Tan Sri Mohamed expressed the hope that the party would quickly resolve its internal probelms.

"The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had already put forward his peace plan for the MCA and the Acting PM Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had also asked the factions to settle their problems."

"The MCA has a big role in the General Election and so I hope there will be give and take in the party, for if the issue is prolonged it will create problems," he said.

As the second biggest component party in the BN after Umno, the role of the MCA was vital in ensuring victory for the BN in the General Election, he said.

"The MCA must solve its problems as quickly as possible so that it will not affect the BN's chances in the General Election," he said.

"I wish to remind the MCA leadership that in the General Election of 1969 there was a power struggle within the MCA and this led to the party losing many seats," he said.

"This should serve as a lesson to them. They should reunite and think of the greater interest of the BN, the government and the country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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