

17 AUG 2003

DAP-Election

DAP EYEING EIGHT PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN KUALA LUMPUR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The DAP is eyeing eight out of the 11 parliamentary seats in the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory in the next general election, DAP Federal Territory chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw said today.

He said that besides striving to retain the Seputeh, Cheras, Bukit Bintang and Kepong seats, the party was planning to contest in Segambut, Bandar Tun Razak, Batu and the new parliamentary seat, Setiawangsa.

"We plan to contest seven or eight seats out of the 11 parliamentary seats in FT for the next general election," he said in his opening speech at the FT DAP annual convention here. The convention was opened by DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock.

In the 1999 general election, FT DAP contested five out of the 10 parliamentary seats in Kuala Lumpur, namely Bukit Bintang, Kepong, Cheras, Seputeh and Segambut, where it suffered the only loss.

DAP did not contest in its two other traditional seats, Bandar Tun Razak and Batu, to pave way for Keadilan (Bandar Tun Razak) and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (Batu), its allies under the Barisan Alternatif banner.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Infrastructure Development Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin urged people in the state to practise the culture of raising the Jalur Gemilang during the Merdeka Month celebration every year.

He said the government aspired to see the people voluntarily fly the national flag instead of being told to do so through campaigns.

Yahya called on the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private firms to make this aspiration a reality.

"We hope all Malaysians have the patriotism to raise the Jalur Gemilang, regardless where they are," he told reporters after launching the state-level Merdeka Month celebration here today.

"We want the Chinese, Malay and Kadazandusun chambers of commerce in the state as well as other organisations to encourage their members to fly the Jalur Gemilang.

"Our aspiration is that in the future, everytime we enter the month of August, there is no need to hold anymore of these campaigns (to distribute the national flags) as everybody would join in and celebrate the occasion," he added.

Some 2,000 national flags were distributed to the public at the function.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the people's unity and patriotism were among the key factors in providing stability to a country, said Johor Local Government Committee Chairman Datuk Jimmy Low Boon Hong.

"These criteria are needed as lately Malaysia has been tested by situations which called for solidarity among its population," he said when launching the state-level fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign at the city square here today.

He said the national flag had always symbolised the solidarity exhibited by Malaysians.

"Jalur Gemilang is not only in the hearts of all Malaysians but it also reflects justice and fairness not only in the country, but also worldwide," said Low.

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Mahathir-Syria

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO SYRIA

By: Mokhtar Hussain

DAMASCUS, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived in this capital city of Syria this morning for a two-day official visit which will focus on enhancing cooperation between Malaysia and Syria at both government and private sector levels.

Upon arrival at the international airport from Swaziland, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were greeted by top Syrian officials led by Prime Minister Mustapha Mero and his wife.

Dr Mahathir was accorded the official welcoming ceremony and inspected the guard-of-honour mounted by the security forces of the Syrian Arab Republic. He later proceeded to the Tishreen Palace (guest house) where he was received by Syrian President Dr Bashar Al-Assad and his wife, Asma Al-Assad.

Dr Mahathir will have a four-eye meeting with President Al-Assad at the Peoples Palace in the afternoon before jointly chairing a delegation meeting between both countries with Mustapha.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will meet Syrian businessmen and attend a luncheon talk with the ulamas of Syria.

Dr Mahathir will also deliver a keynote address to Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, think-tanks of the Syrian government, scholars as well as CEOs of leading private companies.

While here, the Prime Minister will inaugurate Proton's showroom in Harasta and meet Malaysian students and expatriates in Syria.

There are 158 Malaysian students studying in Syria while 27 Syrian students are in Malaysia, studying medicine, science and technology.

Dr Mahathir and wife will leave for Kuala Lumpur after having a private dinner with President Al-Assad and the First Lady at the Presidential Palace.

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