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BN-Unity

DON'T RAISE ISSUES THAT WILL DESTABILISE BN - MOHD ALI

MELAKA, May 11 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties are advised not to raise issues that can be exploited by the opposition and destabilise the coalition in the coming general election.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, who is also the state BN chairman, said internal issues should be solved before the election to ensure undivided support for BN.

"I agree with Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal that party members must set aside internal conflicts and focus on the general election," he said.

He spoke to reporters after the national-level World Red Cross and Red Crescent anniversary celebration at the Portuguese Village here today. The celebration was launched by the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin.

Mohd Ali said internal problems would weaken the party and hamper BN efforts to wrest seats lost in the last election.

Mohd Ali urged party members in the state, who wished to contest in the next general election, to approach the grassroots to solve their problems.

"Support for BN is very solid, but candidates must be good, hardworking, able to garner public support and not only campaign during election season," he said.

He urged MCA to strengthen the party, especially to capture the four state seats and a parliamentary seat won by DAP in the 1999 general election.

DAP won the Kota Melaka parliamentary seat and the Tengkeru, Bandar Hilir, Durian Daun and Bachang state seats.

He said DAP's support in Kota Melaka is waning after the public realised many projects in the area were carried out by the BN government.

Besides, two other opposition parties, PAS and Keadilan, did not have any more issues to exploit to woo voters.

"If in 1999 their ceramahs attracted over 5,000 people, now only 200 to 500 supporters mostly their top leaders attend," he said.

However, he cautioned Melaka BN not to be too complacent with the current developments and to continue efforts to lure more people to join BN, added Mohd Ali.

-- BERNAMA

SBS VP