

18 NOV 2003

Rafidah-PAS

PAS' PLAN TO CONQUER KEDAH ONLY DAY DREAMING, SAYS RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- PAS is only day dreaming to wrest Kedah following the decision by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad not to contest in the coming general election, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today.

"This is PAS' dream in broad daylight. Actually, these people are arrogant and obsessed, they claim that we win the election solely because of Dr Mahathir while he (Dr Mahathir) himself once said that Barisan Nasional's (BN) victory is because of the party, party members and the people who place their hopes and trust to BN all these while," she said.

She said this at a media conference after presenting Hari Raya food packets to orphans and single mothers jointly contributed by the wanita wing of Seputeh Umno division and Metrojaya Berhad.

Rafidah, who is also Wanita Umno Chief, was asked to comment on the statement by PAS President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang on the party's confidence to win more states and seats in the coming general election.

Hadi was reported to have said that PAS was confident to win more states which it could not penetrate before. He singled out Perlis, Kedah, Pahang and Selangor as among the states that could be won by the party.

Rafidah said she believed that as long as the people had the trust and confidence in the BN's ability to protect their welfare and maintain a stable society and country, till then the BN could form the governments in Kedah Kelantan and in other states.

"Let PAS continue with its day dream but Wanita Umno, as a BN machinery, must continue its activities to strengthen the party, especially to face the next general election.

She said although most of the BN component parties were prepared for the general election as was stated by the Prime Minister recently, Wanita Umno believed they were still matters that need to be studied so long the election date had not been announced.

Asked whether he was confident BN could recapture Kelantan and Terengganu from PAS, Rafidah said: "We do not want to speculate on the chances. To us, an opportunity as big as that will only be bright if we work seriously and with strategies and if unity among Umno members and leaders is strong."

"At the moment, I'm receiving analytical reports from Wanita Umno for parliamentary and state constituencies where the spoilt vote percentage is higher than the winning or losing margin," she said.

She said the reports would be tabled in the supreme council and the final report would be handed to the Prime Minister to provide the actual picture on the position of a party.

"Based on the study reports, if the BN wants to retain its victory in areas where it has hopes to win, the key to the victory is for the members to adhere to party discipline.

"Meaning, whoever is picked by the party leadership (to contest), we should accept them with open heart although the candidate is not the preferred choice.

"But because he is carrying the BN's mandate, it is our responsibility to give him full support, both by members of Umno and BN component parties," she added.

-- BERNAMA

SNS AHH TS

