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Mahathir-PBRs

SMALL PARTIES LIKE PBRs WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN- DR MAHATHIR

KENINGAU, Sabah, May 16 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has said small parties in the Barisan Nasional like the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRs) will not be forgotten when elections are held.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) Chairman, said the role of the small parties in the BN was important in efforts to jointly develop the country for the good of all the people.

"The PBRs is indeed a small party but in the BN there are many small parties. We do not value less the role of small parties such as the PBRs."

"I believe the people in Sabah particularly in the interior will continue to support the PBRs and when the people give their support, then certainly the BN will not forget the PBRs," he said when opening the Eighth PBRs Congress at the Keningau Community Hall here.

Earlier in his welcome address, PBRs President Tan Sri Joseph Kurup had expressed the hope that the PBRs would not be forgotten but would be given the opportunity to contest in the next election.

The Prime Minister said since the BN came to power in this country, it had proved its ability to bring development, peace and wellbeing to all the people irrespective of their race or religion.

"This is the BN concept where we merge many parties and form one front which moves together to realise the nation's vision."

"There are parties which represent all races...and no race is oppressed in the BN. All races have a place in the BN and it is this cooperation among the races that has ensured national development," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were political parties which relied on creating hatred and anger against the government so that their members could gain places in the legislature.

"I am thankful that PAS has not received support from the people in Sabah," Dr Mahathir said.

"A number of PAS people from the peninsula have come to work here and they have nothing else but to instil hatred against the government. What can they do for the welfare of the people...there is not a single thing," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no new development in states which were formerly under the BN Government but were now controlled by PAS such as Kelantan and Terengganu.

"Eventhough, they claim to have Islamic form of administration, still cases of raping, even their own children, widely take place in these states as they are inefficient in administering."

"What other aim has PAS in wanting to create an Islamic State, if not to abolish the rights of the non-Muslims," Dr Mahathir said.

Hence the Prime Minister urged the people in Sabah to reject opposition parties particularly PAS in the next election.

-- BERNAMA

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