

06 MAR 2004

Election-Gift (Mahathir)

BIG BN WIN IN KEDAH WILL BE THE BEST GIFT FOR ME- DR M

ALOR STAR, March 6 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the best gift for him by Kedah Barisan Nasional component parties will be ensuring a resounding victory come polling day on March 21.

The former Prime Minister who is advising the Kedah BN on election strategies, said such a victory would be the best form of thanks to him for bringing development to the country over the last 22 years.

"That is the gift I am asking," Dr Mahathir said when meeting Kedah BN campaign workers at the Tunku Building here.

He said the BN could be assured of a landslide win in Kedah but must set aside any form of conflict among party members.

"There is no reason for the BN to lose in Kedah, I want Kedah to be like Johor where PAS has no place. This is what I want to see in Kedah also," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Kedah BN should regain its dignity by winning back all state and parliamentary seats it lost in the General Election of 1999.

In that election, the BN lost 12 of the 36 state seats and one of eight Parliamentary seats. The Kedah BN lost its two-third majority in the state assembly a year later when it lost Lunas to Keadilan in a by-election.

The BN won back the Pendang parliamentary seat in a by election in 2002.

Dr Mahathir said he was embarrassed by the Kedah BN performance in 1999 and did not know what to say when people asked about the BN's performance in the state then.

The former Prime Minister urged BN members not selected as candidates not to sabotage the chances of those selected.

Sabotaging the BN candidate would mean betraying the party and this would lead to an opposition win.

Dr Mahathir said those not selected should not sulk but instead

support  
the candidate chosen to represent the BN.

The former Prime Minister said that on his part he would support whoever was chosen to succeed him in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat.

Dr Mahathir also said he would support the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi provided what he did was for the good of the country.

"I support Pak Lah even though last time he and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah tried to topple me. I do not take offence," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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