

15 MAR 2004

Election-Mahathir

CHOOSE WISELY, DON'T BE SWAYED BY EMOTIONS, SAYS TUN DR MAHATHIR

KLANG, March 15 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people must choose wisely and not be swayed by emotions in the March 21 general election to ensure a new government that can continue with the nation's development agenda.

The former prime minister said that the country's democratic system empowered the people to choose and form a government that is qualified to rule.

"Unlike other nations which practise democracy, we have an open and transparent election, that is, the people can choose the opposition if they don't want a government candidate but I believe that our people are wise enough to choose what's good," he said at a leader-meet-the-people session here.

He and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, were accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo.

Present were the BN candidate for the Kapar parliamentary seat, P. Komala Devi, and the candidates for the four state seats in the constituency, Datuk Abdul Rahman Palil (Sementa); Norliza Ahmad (Selat Klang); Datuk Jaei Ismail (Meru) and Khoh Siew Kim (Sungai Pinang).

Dr Mahathir, who stepped down on Oct 31 last year, and is now campaigning for BN candidates nationwide, said the government had people who represented all the races as well as the ethnic groups in Sabah and Sarawak and who worked not only for their own race but also for the country's interest.

He said every BN machinery must be active to ensure victory for the coalition in all the parliamentary and state constituencies.

Earlier, Dr Mohamad Khir reminded the Selangor BN machinery to work harder and not to be complacent with the opposition's "weak" position to secure a big victory for the BN

He also urged the candidates to go down to the ground to

understand the
people's aspirations and fulfil their needs.

-- BERNAMA

IZI HS JK