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Election-Mahathir

DON'T BE VICTIMISED BY KIT SIANG, DR M ADVISES IPOH TIMOR VOTERS

IPOH, March 19 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Ipoh Timor voters not to allow themselves to be victimised by DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang merely because he wants to become an elected representative again.

He said they do not need a wakil rakyat from the opposition like Kit Siang who only knows to oppose but never gives constructive criticism.

"The opposition always say we must have opposition so that the government will not do the wrong things. It's true but what type of opposition...opposition which helps, not an opposition which is bent on opposing whatever we do.

"This is the reason why the people don't need a opposition leader like Kit Siang because there are people who can play such a role in the government itself.

"Our cabinet is not dumb, representatives of BN component parties never accepted anything without questioning, he told a dialogue after delivering a keynote address entitled "United We Build The Nation", here.

"They always ask what is being done is good or bad," he said when replying to a question from a constituent who expressed fear that Ipoh Timor voters would elect Kit Siang based on his appeal to them to give him a chance to be the people's voice in parliament.

Kit Siang, who was defeated in Penang in 1999, is taking on BN's incumbent Ipoh Timor MP Thong Fah Chong.

Dr Mahathir said Kit Siang never kept to his promise as he had many times stated his intention to retire after losing in previous elections but still contested.

"Every time he loses, he will say this is my last, When he thinks he's going to get something, he'll forget about his promise...don't elect this type of people (Kit Siang. Before Penang, now Ipoh, after this don't know where," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said Kit Siang all this while never acknowledged the sacrifices of the Malays who were prepared to share with the other races.

"Other countries do not accept foreigners and give equal status. There are neighbouring countries which ask to change their names and use local language. He (Kit Siang) conveniently forgets all these," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged Ipoh Timor electorate to ensure BN was re-elected because the power-sharing concept practised by the coalition had proven to be successful in developing the nation and maintaining stability.

The time-tested concept had also become a model to be emulated by other countries, he said.

"After nomination day, I was invited to go to Jeddah to give a talk on how we handle changes, including facing challenges. They're impressed with what we have achieved despite the economic crisis," said Dr Mahathir, who retired on Oct 31 last year.

He said the BN must win to ensure continuity and remained strong so that it would not be a victim of the world's major powers.

Replying to a question on many professionals and former government employees were contesting as PAS candidates in Sunday's election, Dr Mahathir said they were instigated by PAS while they were still studying.

He said Dr Mahathir said PAS' biggest success was to erase the noble values of the Malays like being grateful and indebted which had been the culture of the Malays all this while.

"Ask the doctors who are contesting on PAS ticket from where they got their scholarships but we're fortunate the majority of our people appreciate the hand that fed them," he said.

To tackle this problem, Dr Mahathir said Umno should intensify efforts to instil the noble values of the Malay race.

"A successful race is a race with noble values. The reverse will lead to destruction," he added.

-- BERNAMA
AR TOM