

19 AUG 2004

Mahathir-Election

DR MAHATHIR CONFIDENT OF BIGGER MAJORITY FOR BN IN KUALA BERANG

SEREMBAN, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is confident that the Barisan Nasional (BN) will retain the Kuala Berang state seat with a bigger majority in the by-election on Aug 28.

Dr Mahathir said that he was convinced that the BN's victory was assured based on the determined efforts by the BN leaders in Terengganu to fulfil the promises made in the 11th general election.

"(Furthermore) I feel the people in Terengganu are still no longer keen to vote for PAS. They (PAS) make all kinds of misleading interpretations pertaining to religion...merely to fish for votes, like vote for PAS to go to heaven," he said when asked on the BN's chances of retaining the seat which fell vacant following the death of incumbent Komaruddin Abdul Rahman, 46, of heart failure on July 30.

Dr Mahathir was met by reporters after giving a talk on 'Sekolah Bertaraf Dunia' (World Class Schools) at the opening of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Seremban Dua near here.

Present were Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan; State Education, Youth and Sports Committee Chairman Datuk Mohamad Rais Zainuddin; State Secretary Datuk Hamzah Ghazalli; and State Education Director Datuk Rohani Sharif.

The by-election is a straight fight between BN's Mohamed Zawawi Alias and PAS' Muhyiddin Abdul Rashid.

In the last general election, Komaruddin defeated PAS' Dr Mamad Puteh with a majority of 1,695 votes.

Dr Mahathir also criticised PAS for disputing the 'Islam Hadhari' (Islamic Civilisation) approach adopted by the BN, especially Umno.

"Any efforts made, everything will be disputed by PAS. (It appears as if) nothing is positive, everything is negative," he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the BN not to be complacent and not to be overconfident but to continue to work hard to ensure the BN's victory.

-- BERNAMA

APG RM