

16 MAR 2004
Election-Mahathir
PAS MAKES EMPTY PROMISES, SAYS MAHATHIR

SIBU, March 16 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that PAS makes promises they can never fulfil every time the election comes around.

"If all taxes are to be abolished, how is the government ever to derive revenue. They make empty promises as they know they will not be able to form the government.

"It's not unusual. PAS is always lying, the DAP is just as bad...making promises they cannot keep," the former prime minister told reporters after speaking at a meet-the-people session at the Civic Centre here.

Present were Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud; Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding; State Infrastructure Development and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh; and Science Advisor to the State Government Tan Sri Wong Soon Kai.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate in the Bandar Sibul parliamentary constituency, Datuk Robert Lau Hui Choi, the BN candidate contesting the Lanang parliamentary seat, Tiong Thai King, and some 2,000 members of the BN component parties and members of the public were present.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the manifesto of the opposition alliance calling itself the Barisan Alternatif (BA) which promises to set up a transparent Islamic government as well as promising a bag of goodies in return for victory in the 11th general election. Polling day has been fixed for Sunday.

In the manifesto, launched yesterday in Shah Alam, the BA, among others, promises to reduce vehicle prices by 10 per cent from next year, scrapping toll charges gradually beginning next year, reducing telephone charges by 20 per cent and slashing water rates by 20 per cent from next year.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said that the opposition

parties

were trying to copy the BN by calling themselves the BA.

"You know, when something is being copied, the quality is inferior. If you go to Kuala Lumpur, go to Petaling Street, you can a Rolex watch with RM30. Of course, it's copied. You want to buy a real rolex watch, you'll have to pay a high price," he said.

He also said that the DAP should not be contesting in the election in Sarawak as there was nothing for the party to contest as the government had already delivered its promises.

"To do something, you must be with the government. Individuals cannot deliver. Right at the outset, the DAP has already stated it cannot win. The (number of) seats they are contesting is small and if you can't form the government, you don't go to contest," he said.

Dr Mahathir also advised the voters to come out in full force on polling day to send a strong message that the BN could win the election with a bigger majority.

"This is in order to show the world that the smooth transition of power, the new leadership, has gained support, ever more than before.

"In Malaysia, the changes of leadership will not affect the support of people for the BN," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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