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Dr M: Pas trying to scare Muslims

Abdul Razak Ahmad; Arni Shahida Razak

ALOR STAR, Sat. - Pas is trying to scare Muslims into thinking that they would become apostates if they do not vote for the party tomorrow, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said elections were held to choose the most capable representatives to form the Government and not to determine who is Muslim or otherwise.

"But Pas is trying to make this election a choice over Islam (for Muslims) and that is why they are telling people that if they align themselves with non-Muslims, they will become apostates," he told BN component party members and supporters when opening the Jerlun Umno division building near here.

"These are all lies, big lies by Pas, and they do this just to obtain votes, although it maligns the religion and confuses Muslims to the extent that they feel afraid that if they don't vote for Pas they will not go to heaven.

"Please tell them that one does not have to vote for Pas before one is considered a Muslim."

Dr Mahathir said that during his recent visit to Jeddah, the Malaysian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, had shown him Press reports on comments made by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who said that a vote for Pas would ensure Muslims a place in heaven.

"The Saudis were puzzled and shocked," Dr Mahathir said.

"They were wondering whether it meant that since the Arabs were not eligible to vote in Malaysia and thus could not vote for Pas, they were all not going to get a chance to go to heaven."

In Kangar, Dr Mahathir reminded the voters that they need to choose wisely as they were not just voting for a wakil rakyat, but also the next Government.

He said the BN Government was able to continue developing the country while Pas and DAP had not even been able to do a proper job at being the Opposition.

"We all know that it is easier to criticise than to actually do the job," he said to a gathering of Perlis BN election machinery members at Dewan Warisan here today.

Also present were Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid and former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

Dr Mahathir, who is here to help campaign for BN, also thanked the people for supporting the Government led by him.

"Before this, the BN members and supporters had helped me contest during the previous elections, now it is my turn to repay the gesture," he said.