

Dr M does not expect BN to win big
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By Hafiz Yatim

Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad expects BN to win the next general election, but doubts that the coalition can win with a convincing majority.

During his speech at the Perdana Leadership Foundation CEO Forum 2012, Mahathir said this scenario meant that the federal government's authority will remain at status quo - "weak".

Mahathir, who was prime minister for 22 years, said this would hamper development and be bad for business.

"Now you have a government who has in excess of 30 seats which would be considered weak as a shift in more than 15 MPs would result in a change of government.

"That is why you have the present government which is weak as it is trying to survive (by) having to attend to the various demands and not focus on the country's development or listening well to what the business community wanted.

"Personally, as in my time, I would have preferred a two-thirds majority as then we will have a stronger government. That is how it was during my five terms as the PM.

"However, my outlook for the 13th general election is that BN will still win but with a small majority," he said.

The former premier also reiterated what he had posted in his blog that it was better to pick the devil you know than the angel you don't, in choosing the next government.

He conceded that the present government faces problems of corruption, but remarked there is no government which is free of scourge.

Mahathir's speech was entitled 'What can Malaysians expect post-GE13?'

Mahathir said putting Pakatan Rakyat in Putrajaya would be bad for the country because the word "pakatan (alliance)" had a bad connotation to it, that it is used to indicate an partnership that is up to no good.

"Hence, it would be unwise for the people to choose them," he said.

'If Pakatan wins, no definitive policy'

In attacking the on-going spat between PAS and DAP on hudud, Mahathir said that if Pakatan is elected the focus would very much be on the politicking rather than definitive government policies.

"You would find (Kelantan Menteri Besar) Nik Aziz Nik Mat and (DAP chairperson) Karpal Singh quarrelling over hudud.

"Personally, I do not approve of PAS' version of hudud as it would be detrimental to Malays and Muslims.

"Can you imagine that every Friday you will find a Muslim's hand being chopped off for stealing while a non-Muslim committing a similar crime gets two years' jail?

"I do not claim to be an ulama but in the Quran, it is stated that the law must be just and I think by this we are not doing justice to the people," he said.

Turning his sights on PKR, Mahathir said here we have a party claiming to be fighting for justice and they hijacked that name 'justice' until we (the government) had to change the name of the Palace of Justice (court complex) to Istana Kehakiman (Palace of Judiciary).

"It is their behaviour to hijack ideas from the government," he said.

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