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BERNAMAPIX



Mahathir arrives at the packed town hall in Kulim for a meet-the-people session.

Win back Kedah, says Dr M

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KULIM: Former Barisan Nasional (BN) president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday called on Kedah BN to recapture the state in the next general election (GE).

He said the coalition, especially Umno, should not be concerned about who will be the next Kedah menteri besar, but should instead wrest the state back from Pakatan Rakyat (PR), who took over the state in the 2008 election.

"It is no use if one is selected to take the MB's seat, but ends up not winning the election.

"What is important is to win seats at both the state and the parliamentary levels," he said.

Mahathir, who is also a former prime minister, said before the 12th GE, BN had 14 out of 15 parliamentary seats, which were reduced to four seats in 2008.

He also said Umno division leaders in the state have indicated their support for whoever the BN chooses as candidates for 13th GE.

Earlier, Mahathir met the public at a session organised by Kedah BN, which was attended by about 1,000 people.

There has been much talk and discussion over who would be selected for the Kedah MB post should BN recapture the state, and the names mentioned were that of Mahathir's son, Jerlun MP Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, and Ahmad Bashah.

Mahathir also cautioned the people who vote 'for the sake of change'.

"Change does not guarantee success or goodness.

"Do you see any changes since Pakatan Rakyat took over? I don't see any," he said.

He also claimed the other states under PR - Kelantan, Selangor and Penang - have also not progressed in the past five years.

"In Kelantan, people are moving out of the state to set up their own businesses.

"In Selangor, PKR is said to be unfair as tenders are given out based on political affiliation," he said, adding that a lot of businessmen were sidelined due to this.