

Next polls will 'make or break BN'

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KUALA LUMPUR: THE next general election will be the deciding factor that will either make or break the Barisan Nasional coalition.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday that the general election was a matter of "life and death" for BN, not just in the Federal Territory here, but throughout the nation.

"Each parliamentary area in the Federal Territory is important. In previous times, people would readily support BN but times have changed, and so have expectations.

"We have provided all that they want and needed in the last 55 years but they want more things like human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the media and other demands which they want the government to fulfil," said Muhyiddin at the launch of the BN Federal Territory machinery at Stadium Titiwangsa.

Muhyiddin said the government and BN had taken steps to provide for the people, starting with transformation programmes and moving into other areas, such as improving the education system, combating crime and corruption, and easing the cost of living.

"If the people want changes, there is no other government that can bring about big changes. We do not just walk and talk, we walk the talk."

He also touched on former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's blog posting that the Bersih demonstrations were preparations by the opposition to reject the results of the 13th general election should it fail to win it.

Dr Mahathir also mentioned the possibility of violent demonstrations by unhappy citizens if they lost the next elections.

Muhyiddin said he agreed with Dr Mahathir's views and added that the way the opposition and Bersih were going about their agenda, it was as if the government had failed to meet even a single demand since their the demands were voiced.

Muhyiddin said there was no need for demonstrations in the country as the country had peace, stability and "full employment", unlike other countries.

He said if BN wanted to manipulate the election results, it could have done so in 2008, where it would have won all 13 seats in the Federal Territories (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan) instead of just three.

He said it would have also ensured that it won in Selangor, which was considered a goldmine among all the states.

"It's not just the government but the Election Commission, which has taken steps to improve the election system. Maybe they are doing this because they are not getting the support they expected to get, like in 2008.

"This may be a grand psychological warfare on their part to condition the minds of the people so that if BN wins, they would believe that this was because elections in the country are dirty and will channel their anger by recreating the Arab Spring demonstrations so they can declare the election results invalid," he elaborated later at a press conference.

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