

Dr M: BN is 'dithering', but can win
The Malaysian Reserve
June 25, 2012
By Habhajan Singh

HITTING THE 5-YEAR MARK: (From left) Redberry Sdn Bhd group chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Siew Ka Wai, The Malaysian Reserve CEO Syed Mohamed Fazilla Syed Hussain, group editor/chief operating officer Halim Wahab, Dr Mahathir, International Herald Tribune Asia Pacific deputy managing director Helena Phua and The Malaysian Reserve chairman Tunku Ya'acob Tunku Abdullah at the company's 5th anniversary in Kuala Lumpur (pic: Shahrin Yahya)

The present Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition is "dithering a bit, not sure if it will win" the next general election (GE), said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I think it will have a better win than in 2008," he said in his speech at the 5th anniversary of The Malaysian Reserve in Kuala Lumpur last Friday.

Dr Mahathir was invited to grace the function and give his thoughts on five issues that would affect the local and foreign economies in the next five years.

In the 2008 GE, BN won 140 out of the 222 Parliament seats up for grabs, losing for the first time the two-thirds majority, the margin required to push through amendments to the Federal Constitution.

In the state elections held simulatenously in all 12 states except Sarawak, the Opposition coalition led by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim under the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) banner, managed to wrest five states — Kelantan, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Selangor and Perak.

Perak later fell to BN after some lawmakers left PR. Former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi led the BN charge in 2008.

He made way for Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak who has been zig-zagging the nation in preparation for the much anticipated 13th GE.

Dr Mahathir also predicted that the polls would not be during Ramadhan, but "not sure how long" later.

Some leaders from PAS, a major Opposition party at the federal level which controls two states, have been pressing Najib for an assurance that the 13th GE will not be called during the fasting month. When talking to reporters at a function last Friday, Najib did not rule out the possibly of having GE during the Haj pilgrimage season, pointing out it happened in the 1986 polls.

Talking to the audience present at The Malaysian Reserve function, Dr Mahathir then asked what would happen if the Opposition manages to win control at the federal level.

"Some say there will be more freedom, more gatherings. Will that give us better life? We will get more press freedom, the Reserve will be more unreserved in criticising the government," he quipped.

Incidentally, Unreserved is the lifestyle magazine that is published with The Malaysian Reserve on alternate Fridays. Dr Mahathir then went on to describe how the economic development in India is being paralysed by so-called democratic practices.

"In India, I told them that you are too democratic. You are too busy arguing, you don't move forward, unlike China. I told the Philippines that democracy is not about demonstrations, but choosing the right leaders.

"People won't invest in a country that is unstable, not even the local investors," he said. In one scenario, Dr Mahathir said the country "can go to the dogs" if the Opposition was allowed to take over.

Copyright The Malaysian Reserve © 2007-2011

Source:

http://themalaysianreserve.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1558:dr-m-bn-is-dithering-but-can-win&catid=36:corporate-malaysia&Itemid=120