

Dr Mahathir Confident BN Will Remain In Power After 13th General Election
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed confidence that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government will remain in power after the upcoming general election.

The impending 13th general election, slated to be held this year, would be the most crucial political battle that BN had to face, he said.

The former premier also hoped that BN would win two-thirds majority in Parliament so that the government could implement its policies without resistance.

"The Pakatan Rakyat is merely a coalition for the sake of the upcoming elections. If they are elected to govern, I am sure each party will then battle for its own ideology.

"That is definitely not good for Malaysia and will disrupt all efforts to build the economy, undertaken by the present government," he said at the 15th Malaysia Strategic Outlook Conference 2013, here, Thursday.

Dr Mahathir said the infighting within the opposition group was the main reason for the confidence-comeback among Malaysian voters towards the ruling coalition.

He also said that the BN government, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, was knowledgeable on social and economic issues, which was very important for a developing nation.

He said the government had drawn up ambitious development plans for the future of Malaysia, and it was the responsibility of Malaysians to give the government a chance to prove the effectiveness of the plans.

"Change itself will be destructive and comes with uncertainties. Turmoil is not good for any country.

"A fresh government will also take a long time to adjust to its new role from the opposition to the government. This wasted period of time will jeopardise Malaysia's growth," he added.

Asked on the suitable time to dissolve Parliament to allow for the elections, Dr Mahathir said: "I think it should be after the Chinese New Year festive period."

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