

Dr M: Not all who got ICs voted for BN
New Straits Times
07 February 2013
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FALSE CLAIMS: Only the deserving in Sabah were given citizenship, he adds

KUALA LUMPUR: THE fact that Barisan Nasional lost to Parti Bersatu Sabah in the 1994 Sabah state election showed that not all foreigners given citizenship voted for the coalition, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Dismissing the opposition's claims that foreigners were given identity cards (ICs) in return for voting BN, Dr Mahathir said only those who deserved were given citizenships.

"If all the foreigners who got ICs voted for BN, why did Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan (who then helmed the opposing PBS) win?"

Dr Mahathir was speaking after launching the Antarctica: Malaysia's Journey to the Ice book at Universiti Malaya here yesterday.

On the participation of non-governmental organisations as independent observers in the next general election, Dr Mahathir said this showed that the government had nothing to hide.

"In some countries, the ruling government wins 99 per cent of the seats. Here, the opposition won five states in the last election and denied the ruling coalition its two-thirds majority."

Asked on opposition from certain parties to Korean pop star Psy performing in Penang during Chinese New Year celebrations, Dr Mahathir said: "There is nothing wrong if people like to see it. I am sure most of us do."

The book launch commemorates the trip to Antarctica by Dr Mahathir and his entourage between Feb 6 and 13 of 2002. Funding was provided by the university and the Higher Education Ministry.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/dr-m-not-all-who-got-ics-voted-for-bn-1.214399>