

Mahathir: PAS a 'negative' party

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KOTA BARU, Wed.

PAS is a negative party because it has never honoured its promises, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Commenting on PAS's pledge to continue cordial relations with the Federal Government and co-operate in the implementation of development projects in Kelantan, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said:

"We have agreed to co-operate with PAS when it was in the National Front, but PAS has never consulted us on whatever actions it took.

"If even when PAS was in the National Front it was difficult for us to have such a co-operation, I cannot see how the party can co-operate, after becoming an opposition."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir told reporters at Pengkalan Chepa airport here that the Federal Government would not withdraw the develop-

ment projects planned for Kelantan even if the National Front was defeated in the polls this Saturday.

"But based on our past experiences, it is difficult for the Federal Government to implement its development schemes if the State Government is under a party which protects its own self."

He added: "Even when Kelantan was under the National Front, most leaders of the dominant party here were occupied with attempts at removing Datuk Haji Mohamed Nasir, as the Menteri Besar rather than carrying out the development activities here."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir is here for three days to bolster the National Front campaigns. He will return to Kuala Lumpur tomorrow morning to open a seminar jointly organised by the Business Times and the Malaysian Development Bank before flying back here to continue his visit.

Opening a mosque in Kampung Padang Chenok, about 11 miles from here this evening, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir warned certain politicians in Kelantan not to try and break the solidarity of the Malays in attempting to further their political ends.

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Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the Federal Government would always grant the funds for projects but it would be impossible for the opposition State Government to "deliver the goods to the people" if the party leaders were only looking after their own interests.

On the PAS manifesto released here yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister said: "It is empty talk."

The National Front, however always fulfilled

This group of people instead of working to foster solidarity of the Malays were seeking for ways and means to destroy this solidarity after it had been achieved.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir urged the people of Kelantan not to be influenced by emotional speeches.

"Otherwise we will be destroyed and defeated," he added.

Meanwhile, Berjasa president Datuk Haji Mohamed Nasir said PAS might not be able to honour its promises included in the party's manifesto because of insufficient sources of revenue.

"I know this very well because I have been a PAS Deputy Menteri Besar for about 10 years," he added.

Secretary of Kelantan National Front Haji Ariffin Haji Salleh described the PAS manifesto as "obsolete" because its contents were similar to its 1969 manifesto.

"This clearly shows that PAS has not honoured its promises to the people made eight years ago," he said.