

Dr. M on why Umno doesn't need an ideology

N.S.T. 10 MAR 1978

KOTA BARU, Thurs.

— Umno does not need an ideology for its struggle is to serve the people, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said last night.

Referring to PAS' criticisms that Umno does not have an ideology unlike PAS which is based on Islam, he said:

"Islam is a religion and not an ideology. How can it be equated to an ideology?"

He said that in Russia where there was no religion, communism is the ideology. "Is PAS trying to place Islam at par with communism?" he asked.

The Deputy Prime Minister told about 1,000 people of Semut Api at the Sekolah Kebangsaan

That was mainly to calm the situation in the State and then hold the election after the people had been given the opportunity to think in a peaceful atmosphere.

The National Front Government honours and adheres to the democratic system to give full freedom to the rakyat to choose their own government.

If Umno had been crazy for power it could also have continued to rule the country by emergency right through from 1969. But it did not do so and in fact democracy was returned to the people who were given the opportunity to choose their own government every five years, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said.

Banggol near here that Umno did not need an ideology. "What Umno wants is to serve the people."

This it had done and would continue to do as evident in the development efforts currently being undertaken by the National Front Government throughout the country.

People's mood

He denied PAS claims that Umno was power crazy in trying to capture Kelantan.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said that if Umno was really power mad, it could easily have held the election during the recent troubles following the vote of no confidence against Mentri Besar, Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Nasir.

If the election was held in Kelantan then, the National Front would have made a clean sweep due to the mood of the people in Kelantan. PAS leaders who were then scared would not have come out to contest.

But it did not convene the election then and instead established federal rule through the Kelantan Emergency Act.

No headway

During that emergency rule, the Umno leadership of the late Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Dr Ismail could have banned all political parties in the country if it wanted.

And now in Kelantan the rakyat were again asked to choose their next government. If they wanted an intensified development for the State then they should choose the Front on Saturday, he added.

PAS, during its previous administration of the State had not made any headway in developing the State, resulting in the people continuing to live in poverty.

He said that the Federal Government was prepared to give a big allocation to develop the State. However, implementation of the projects was not solely dependent on allocations but also needed a clean and sincere administration at the state level.

There was also need for co-operation with the Federal Government which he said would not be forthcoming from a PAS controlled Kelantan government.