

Mahathir: We will expose Pas-DAP polls tie-up

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By REJAL ARBEE: Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.

THE National Front and Umno are in the process of compiling an analysis of the incidence of co-operation between Pas and the DAP to be revealed to the public soon.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad told reporters today that despite denials by Pas there was no doubt that the party was co-operating with the DAP.

He said the Pas policy since leaving the Front, and in the election was to split the Malays.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said that that was why Pas was contesting in as many Malay areas as possible but not in others like Penang.

Pas is involved in straight fights with the Front in 47 Parliamentary constituencies, practically all the Malay areas.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said that Pas was willing to do anything, even to the extent of co-operating with the DAP, to split the Malays.

It was prepared to co-operate with the DAP even knowing that the DAP did not accept the New Economic Policy.

He said that Pas considered Umno its only enemy and that was why it only attacked Umno and not the DAP.

Good showing

med Asri to contest in Kedah, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the Pas leader has no principles.

He said that Datuk Asri had failed to create an Islamic Government in Kelantan during its 19 years of rule there and has now moved out to Kedah.

The Front was not scared of him and would use its machinery to beat him in Padang Terap where he faces Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, who is not contesting for a State seat.

Commenting on the case of the Minister of Local Government and Federal Territory Minister, Haji Hassan Adli, who is contesting in his old area of Bagan Datok on a Front ticket without being a member of a component party of the Front, Datuk Seri Dr.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the situation arose because neither Usno nor Berjaya was prepared to give way. The winner would decide which component holds the seat. Either way, the candidate elected would be a Front MP.

Education Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, speaking at a dialogue session in Labis last night, said Pas was putting up candidates in areas where Ministers were seeking re-election merely to tie them down from campaigning in other areas.

Datuk Musa is being challenged by a Pas candidate in a straight fight.

He said that it was a wrong strategy to be adopted because it would not deter him from campaigning throughout the country.

In a statement issued by the Front headquarters today, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said Pas was bent on frustrating the Front irrespective of their own standing in the constituencies where they had put up candidates.

Commenting on the fewer number of seats obtained by the Front without contest in this election as compared to 1974, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said with Pas out of the Front winning nine Parliamentary seats uncontested "is very good indeed."

He said in fact, it was better than in 1974 when the Front won 47 seats uncontested purely because Pas was then in the Front.

Now with Pas contesting against the Front in more seats than usual, naturally the number of seats won uncontested by the Front must be fewer, but it did not reflect any change in the electorate's views.

Asked to comment on the decision of Pas president Datuk Haji Moha-

Mahathir said:

"Haji Hassan was to have contested on the Berjaya ticket but following the split in the party and since Berjaya is not a member of the Front, there was a possibility that his nomination papers would be rejected.

Sabah case

"We cannot take this risk and so as a special case we allowed him to stand on the Front ticket."

Replying to another question, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said that members of the component parties, who stood as independents, would not be accepted back by their respective parties even if they were returned.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir was also asked to comment on why the Front was not contesting the Kinabatangan parliamentary constituency in Sabah.

The seat is being contested by two independents backed separately by Berjaya and Usno.