

Dr M: Pas can't save the nation from Reds

By NAZAR ABDUL

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ALOR STAR, Tues. — Pas cannot save the country from the communists because it is incapable of forming the Federal Government, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, said yesterday.

"Moreover, the communists are not capable of taking over power in the country," he told a National Front gathering at Wang Tepus, 18 miles from here.

Wang Tepus is in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency, where he is seeking re-election.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said only the National Front could form the Federal Government.

He said Malaysia's advancement in Islamic Studies, which had now reached university level, was the fruit of the attainment of independence brought about by the struggle of the former Umno-MCA-MIC alliance and now the National Front.

He added that the National Front Government had placed great efforts towards raising the standard of Islamic Studies and today there was a Faculty of Islamic Studies in the University of Malaya.

He said many had passed out as professors in Islamic Studies from the university. Some had become Pas members.

He pointed out that before independence, Islamic religious institutions and schools were not provided grants by the government but today the government was providing grants as well as aid to such institutions and schools.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said because of the unity of the Malays, they had managed to achieve independence.

He said Pas was opposed to the Alliance fighting for independence in 1955.

When Pas contested in the General Election that year, it was defeated, he said.

But after the Alliance had achieved independence, Pas charged that it was a half-baked independence.

He said when Pas ruled Kelantan for 19 years, it had not provided any allocation to build mosques.

He added Umno had succeeded in uniting the Malays and through this unity, the country had made great progress.

But now, Pas in its efforts to win seats was trying to disunite the Malays.

He said Pas did so by using the Islamic religion and by telling the Malays it was against the religion for Umno to work together with non-Malays.

He said in the Padang Terap parliamentary constituency, where Pas President Datuk Mohamed Asri was in a straight fight against Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, Pas was using religious gatherings to woo votes.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the only time Pas leaders had fulfilled their promise was when they were in National Front Government.

But the promises were fulfilled not by Pas leaders but by the National Front Government.