

MAHATHIR—SCOFF

BM

ALOR STAR, JUNE 30 (BERNAMA)—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT PAS LEADERS WERE EMPLOYING VARIOUS TACTICS, INCLUDING SCOFFING AT UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS, IN THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO WIN VOTES.

HE SAID THAT PAS' INTENTION WAS TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE INTO SCORNING UMNO LEADERS AND VOTING FOR PAS.

SPEAKING AT A BN-ORGANISED CERAMAH AT KUBUR PANJANG, 20 MILES FROM HERE, HE SAID THE PAS LEADERS WERE CHANGING THEIR ISSUES TO SUIT THE TIME AND PLACE.

IN MALAY AREAS, HE SAID, THEY WOULD MOCK UMNO LEADERS AND BRING UP ISSUES WHICH COULD TURN THE PEOPLE AGAINST UMNO AND INSTEAD SUPPORT PAS.

IN CHINESE-PREDOMINATED AREAS, THE PAS LEADERS WOULD TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THE BN GOVERNMENT WAS HELPING ONLY THE MALAYS AND WAS IGNORING CHINESE INTERESTS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT PAS HAD USED SUCH TACTICS SUCCESSFULLY IN ELECTIONS BEFORE IT JOINED BARISAN NASIONAL. —BERNAMA MORE 2034/MD

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HE WARNED THE PEOPLE NOT TO FALL FOR SUCH TACTICS WHICH WERE AIMED AT CREATING TROUBLE AND DISUNITING THEM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADMITTED THAT THE PAS LEADERS, ESPECIALLY ITS PRESIDENT DATUK ASRI HAJI MUDA, WERE MASTERS OF RHETORIC AND COULD INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE WITH WORDS.

HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THE PAS LEADERS WISHED ONLY TO SECURE SEATS FOR THEIR OWN INTEREST AND COMFORT AND NOT TO SERVE THE RAKYAT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AGAIN CRITICISED THE PAS LEADERS FOR USING QURANIC VERSES IN THE PARTY'S MANIFESTO AND LEAFLETS TO FISH FOR VOTES.

HE SAID THAT USING HOLY VERSES IN VAIN WAS AGAINST THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

HE SAID THAT IN KELANTAN, LEAFLETS CONTAINING QURANIC VERSES PRINTED BY PAS HAD BEEN STREWN ALONG ROADS AND HAD BEEN STEPPED UPON BY PEOPLE.

+IS THIS HOW THE PAS LEADERS RESPECT THE HOLY VERSES OF THE QURAN?+, HE ASKED. —BERNAMA 2036/MD