

Why we work side by side

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SUNGEI PERIA (Kuala Krai), Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today there was nothing wrong in co-operating with non-Muslims if they had no intention of destroying the Muslims.

In the interest of unity and national development, he said, it is imperative that the Muslims co-operate with the non-Muslims, who make up 50 per cent of the country's population.

Speaking at the opening of a primary school in a State that is deeply rooted in religion and tradition, the Prime Minister said the Chinese and Indians were allowed into the country by "our forefathers".

"We have to accept the situation. We can't chase them out," he said.

He said there was no reason why Umno should not co-operate with MCA and MIC as they were not against the Muslims.

Racist

What was worse was the fact that some people spoke as though they

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wanted to eat the non-Muslims when in actual fact they were the ones who co-operated with "infidels" clandestinely.

Hitting out at Pas' unholy alliance with the DAP, he said co-operation with a racist party, showed no sympathy for the interests of Muslims.

He said the DAP had not even accepted the definition of "bumiputra" and had continually criticised the Government for spending so much on propagating Islam.

But the MCA, on the other hand, had supported the Government's

position and co-operated with it.

"Clearly there are two groups of non-Muslims," he said.

"Umno has chosen to co-operate with the good one and Pas with the one which criticises and condemns us."

Repeating the same accusation at the opening of a mosque in Kok Lanis in the Nilam Puri parliamentary constituency, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Pas which had pronounced Umno as a party of infidels for co-operating with non-Muslims

was actually guilty of co-operating with the DAP, which was against Islamic interests.

On both occasions the Prime Minister hit out at the Pas Government which ruled Kelantan for 18 years, for leasing thousands of acres of timber land to Chinese-owned companies.

This, he said, showed that Pas co-operated with Chinese who had no interest in helping the Muslims.

Accusing Pas of using religion to win the election, he said the party had no respect for the religion since it was using

it to cheat and mislead kampung folk.

The Prime Minister stressed that the Barisan Nasional Government placed the highest priority on uniting Muslims, not only within the country but on a worldwide basis.

Misled

It was important that Muslims understood their religion fully so that they would not fall prey to others and be misled.

At the opening of the school, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's education system had been criticised as un-Islamic even though it has led to many students obtaining higher degrees in Islamic studies.

"A system contrary to Islamic teaching could not have made such an achievement," he said.

Malaysia's education system was aimed at building a society which was equipped with all kinds of expertise for a prosperous nation and a people who can enjoy a comfortable life, he added.