

Dr M repeats that offer to Pas

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Prime Minister today extended another invitation to Pas to join the Barisan Nasional coalition.

"I'm making the offer now," he said without hesitation when reminded that Pas leaders Datuk Haji Asri Muda and Ustaz Fadzil Nor had said they would keep the Pas door open for discussions if an offer was made seriously after the election.

Asked if he would extend the invitation formally the way the Pas leaders wanted, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad retorted:

"Do I have to go be a supplicant? Do I have to go to them on bended knee that they should join us?"

"I'm making the offer now," he reiterated, leaving no doubt about his seriousness.

On Pas wins in Kelantan and Trengganu, the Prime Minister dismissed the assessment that Pas had made inroads in the two States.

Cabinet

"I don't consider it a success," he said, explaining that the Pas debacle in 1978 was special because the election was held while the party was embroiled in a crisis.

Neither could this year's performance be compared with 1974 when Pas was in the Barisan.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the equivalent situation would be 1969 — compared with that year, Pas has not made any gains at all, he said.

Of the new Cabinet, he said it will comprise people who are clean, efficient and trustworthy.

He said members of the Cabinet must also be people who have the ability to see things maturely.

"The most important characteristic is the ability to mix and get along with people," he said at a Press conference after a TV interview this morning.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said academic qualifications are important but in the selection, the non-academically qualified might take precedence over the academically qualified if a person is found to be lacking in other qualities.

He also hinted at the need for the new Cabinet to reflect the geographical distribution when he said:

"Even if I find all the Kedah MPs are the most suitable for the Cabinet, I will still not take the whole lot from Kedah."

The Prime Minister said he would wait for the Sabah and Sarawak results before making a move to form his new government.