

Mend your ways and join Umno, Pas told

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BESUT, Thurs. — Umno will welcome Pas to join it to strengthen the position of Muslims and the nation if Pas would mend its ways, the Prime Minister said today.

"We cannot accept their opinions but we are still prepared to accept them if they can change their ways," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a crowd of more than 12,000 supporters who had gathered at Kuala Besut, near here, to greet him.

The Prime Minister stopped to address them on his way to Pulau Perhentian.

He said there was still a great deal to be done by the Muslims and the nation to improve their lot and gain greater strength.

This included the administration of the country.

Dr Mahathir said unity was vital in

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achieving greater goals and this was proved when the Malays united and successfully opposed the Malayan Union.

Further proof came when the Alliance party gained independence for the country.

Government efforts

He said the Malays then had nothing but sheer unity with which they fought the British who eventually gave up the idea of the Malayan Union.

He added that the Alliance later secured 51 of the 52 seats in the first elections through unity and close co-operation among the various races in the country.

The Prime Minister pointed to the

political turmoil in some Muslim countries which had failed to defeat their much smaller enemy nation of three million people despite numbering 90 million.

He warned that the Malays would suffer the same fate if they were disunited.

He regretted that there were Muslims in this country who had been trying to disunite other Muslims for selfish gains.

He reminded the Muslims not to be influenced by these elements who were trying to mislead them through misinterpretation of the Quran and Hadith.

He also regretted that Pas had been standing in the way of Government efforts to develop the nation.

Also present were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Amar Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and other VIPs.