

'Gerakan can go it alone if it wants to'

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JITRA, F.M. Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Barisan Nasional is prepared to allow Gerakan to contest under its own symbol in the coming general election.

"If Gerakan wants to contest under its own symbol, let it carry on and we will watch.

"Let Gerakan leave the coalition and contest on its own."

Dr Mahathir was responding to reporters' questions on a statement by Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik recently that the party might contest under its own symbol in the coming general election if it

By KHAIRUDDIN HASSAN



DR MAHATHIR

was not given a fair deal in the allocation of seats.

On plans by Pas to set up a Chinese Consultative Committee in his constituency in Kubang Pasu, the Prime Minister said Pas could do whatever it liked.

"We know what Pas is up to. We would also like to see what they have in mind about the special privileges of Malays."

Earlier, in addressing about 1,000 Muslims after joining them to break fast at Masjid Siputeh, Dr Mahathir urged Muslims to cast aside their ideological differences.

He said goodwill among Muslims, in all aspects, was part of the Islamic way of life.

The Prime Minister also said no two people could agree with each other all the time.

"There is a time to be enemies and a time to set aside differences to jointly fulfil our religious

struggle."

The Prime Minister also urged Muslims to help those in need.

"We should not wait for invitations before we render our services."

Islam, he added, taught followers to be responsible to each other.

He also urged Muslims to set a good example for non-Muslims.

"The non-Muslims are not our enemies. They have not threatened us nor are they out to destroy us. We should, therefore, accept them as friends.

"If we indulge in adverse activities among ourselves it would only reflect badly on Islam because the non-Muslims would judge us, not by their understanding of the religion but by our behaviour and character.

"If we continue to alienate them, they would have a bad impression of us."