

Pas envies BN's success, says Dr M

KETEREH (Ker- lantan), Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Pas was merely continuing to fight Umno and the Barisan Nasional because it envied the Government's success and achievements.

He said that Pas was not founded on a true desire to struggle for Islam but out of this envy.

On the other hand, Umno was founded to

struggle for the country, Islam and the people, he said when he opened the Kok Lanas Umno division general meeting here today.

He urged Umno members, especially Wanita Umno members, to strive to open the eyes of Pas members to make them realise this.

He stressed that Umno and the Government had carried out considerable development, including in religion.

These include building schools, the International Islamic University and establishing relationships with Islamic countries.

He said that Pas lost in elections in 1955 because the party was not accepted by the people then who knew that it was not founded on Islam.

However, the present generation was not aware of the origin of Pas and Pas was taking advantage of this ignorance.

He said that Pas had issued a fatwa telling Muslims in the country that if they went to Mecca during the election time and they could not vote, God would not accept their pilgrimage.

No fear

He said that this was against the Islamic teaching and was an example of what Pas would do to win support for the coming election.

Other examples of what Pas would do to win the support was changing its flag from green to red to please members of the Chinese consultative committee (CCC), and the killings at Memali.

Kok Lanas Umno division leader Datuk Abdullah Ahmad urged members in the division to strive hard to ensure a Barisan victory in the coming general election.

He said the voters would not be influenced by Pas which was "hiding behind Islam".

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said Umno was not afraid that Pas would take over Kelantan, Kedah and Terengganu in the coming general election.

He said Umno and the Barisan Nasional had about 30 years' experience in administering the country and the people had tasted the fruits of progress brought about through that administration.

Hence there was no need for the BN to fear that Pas could take over power in those States, he said.

On the criticism by certain Australian newspapers on the death sentence on two Australians, Brian Chambers, 29, and Kevin Barlow, 28, who were sentenced to hang after being found guilty of trafficking in dadah, he said the newspapers concerned were merely trying to gain through the publicity.

He pointed out that the newspapers in that country agreed with the sentence when he visited Australia recently.