

PM: PAS REVEALS TRUE COLOURS

The party is doing what it had
condemned Umno for: Dr M

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JOHORE BARU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that PAS' hypocrisy was evident now as it wooed the DAP to join the Opposition front when in the past it had condemned Umno for working with non-Muslims.

The Prime Minister said that PAS had also laboured to make friends with the Chinese through the Chinese Consultative Council.

He said the opposition party was wooing the Chinese in several States but in Kelantan it denied co-operating with non-Muslims.

The party that had once labelled Umno as *kafir* (infidel) was now doing what it had con-

demned, he told a rally to mark the 14th anniversary of the Barisan Nasional.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on PAS' agreement to exclude its objective to set up an Islamic State from the joint declaration of the Opposition front.

The DAP had refused to consider joining the front unless PAS dropped this objective.

He added that they would have fought to retain it if they were really sincere.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, also reiterated his call to the people to return the Barisan with a two-third majority in the general election as this would ensure the nation of peace, prosperity and

tinuity in its government would enjoy this benefit, he said.

The opposition parties, on the other hand, even if united under one organisation, could not possibly do the same because of the contradictory nature of their leaders, he said.

He described as "utter fabrications" the claims by opposition parties and several social movements that if the Barisan was returned with a two-third majority, the coalition, its leaders and the Government would be arrogant, proud and irresponsible.

"If these claims are true, why is it that all along we have had close rapport with the people, listened to their problems and provided them funds for development projects?"

Dr Mahathir said that if there was a change in government, the new people in power would strive more at guarding their new positions than give development to the people.

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In Kuala Terengganu, State Barisan chief Datuk Seri Amar Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the compromise by PAS indicated that the party had all along been interested only in gaining power.

"It is characteristic of PAS to say or preach something but do something else altogether," he said.

development.

He said there was no reason for the people to stop supporting the Barisan which "has been tested and found outstanding."

He said it had brought about a spirit of close co-operation among the various communities and this in turn had ensured peace, stability and development.

Only a country with such con-

On the general election, Dr Mahathir said that it was "near" and that every Barisan component party should be prepared at all times.

He said the date was not important but the sense of being prepared was.

Asked if the delayed announcement on the date was a strategy to exhaust the Opposition, he replied: "I don't know ... are they exhausted?"

Several programmes, including a silat demonstration, lion dance, choir singing and hoisting of the Barisan flag were held as part of the coalition's celebrations organised by the Pulau Umno division.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Paduka Siti Hasmah returned to Kuala Lumpur this evening.