

Mahathir: PAS only after power

By FOONG THIM LENG
and MAZLAN ISHAN

IPOH, Fri. - PAS professes to fight for Islam but its struggle is more for seats and power, the Prime Minister said today.

He said this was why the party was formed only after Umno had succeeded in opposing plans by the British to form the Malayan Union.

"When the British formulated the Malayan Union plan, the Malays had already formed Umno and were opposing its implementation. The intention of fighting for seats never entered their minds.

"However, PAS was formed only when its supporters realised that it was possible under democracy to contest for seats and gain

power.

"If PAS was really fighting for Islam, it would have been formed when we were opposing the British and not after," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad added when addressing about 20,000 people at the Bakri Rais Stadium in Bota Kanan.

He said that under Islam, all communities had a place under the sun and that it was not un-Islamic for Muslims to co-operate with the other races.

He said Prophet Muhammad enjoyed a good relationship with his non-Muslim relatives so much so that they were finally persuaded to embrace the religion.

"What the Barisan Nasional is doing now is in line with that example. There is no reason why we cannot co-operate with the other races as long as they are not our

enemies," he said.

He added the Chinese and the Indians had fought alongside the Malays for independence.

Dr Mahathir said PAS, in its greed for power, was prepared to use Islam and the Quran as a tool without thought for the consequences.

"They are prepared to cause disunity when under Umno the Malays were united. As a result families have been split, marriages have had to be solemnised twice and the dead have not been allowed to be buried alongside their ancestors," he said.

The Prime Minister advised the people in the district not to fall for PAS' sweet words and their incomplete interpretation of the Quran.

He said PAS was committing a grave sin in the eyes of Islam by

making false accusations and wrongly interpreting Islam.

He described the accusation by Ibrahim Libya and his followers that the Government and the police were infidels and their deaths were *halal* as cruel.

Dr Mahathir said religious scholars had studied the issue and had decided otherwise.

As such those who died fighting the police in Memali died in vain and as traitors of Islam, he said.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib in his speech advised the people to be careful of groups who professed to fight for Islam and sought to bring about change.

He said the Alliance and Barisan Nasional Government had governed the country for almost 30 years and had brought about peace and progress.