

# Mahathir to PAS:

# LET'S

# WORK

# TOGETHER

5 APR 1986

**KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on PAS today to co-operate with Umno for the greater unity of the Muslims.**

"If they can change their attitude and co-operate with other Muslims a lot could be done towards achieving Muslim unity," the Prime Minister said.

He hoped that PAS members would "have a change of heart" and be willing to "listen to our side."

"I believe if they can change their attitude we can solve a lot of problems and concentrate on developing the country," he added when opening a fish landing jetty at Chendering.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a three-day visit to Terengganu, said it was regrettable that instead of working for peace and unity, PAS had tried to create chaos and disunity among Muslims.

"They use religion to confuse the people. They misinterpret the Quran and *hadith* for their political interests."

Dr Mahathir hoped that the people, especially those in Terengganu, were aware of PAS' intentions.

"It doesn't mean that those who speak Arabic are knowledgeable in the religion," he said.

He stressed that Umno and the Barisan Nasional wanted to help the people.

"The Government has been trying to inculcate Islamic values — good universal values — among the people so that we can continue to live in peace," he said.

#### 'DANGEROUS TREND'

Later, at a gathering of about 2,000 State Barisan leaders at the stadium here, Dr Mahathir said there was a line of thinking among a section of the people involving a "dual choice" concept for the next general election.

He said these people wanted to

vote for PAS to enable the opposition party to rule at State level but would vote for the Barisan Nasional to continue as the Federal government.

"Such a trend is very dangerous as no one knows what will happen on polling day and who will win," *Bernama* quoted him as saying.

Dr Mahathir said this group claimed that if the Barisan was given too much power, it would "do as it pleases."

He warned that if the wish of this group came true, there would be a loss of balance and the consequences for the nation would be catastrophic.

He stressed that PAS, if voted into power, would be acting at its own whims and fancies as it had no plans for the people's welfare.

He said it was only appropriate for the Barisan to secure at least a two-thirds majority in the general election as this would enable it to govern the country effectively.

A party with a small majority

would be fearful of doing anything as it would be haunted by the prospect of its members defecting to other parties, he said, adding that the country might not have peace if a Government did not get a convincing majority.

He urged the people to vote wisely and to reject PAS which he said had created a lot of trouble for the country.

He said that because PAS existed, incidents that lowered the dignity of the Muslims and the Malays had occurred. These included having two imams to lead prayers, separate burial grounds, going through a marriage ceremony twice, disputes among families, boycotting one another and labelling other Muslims infidels.

To non-Muslims, Dr Mahathir advised them to observe carefully the behaviour of PAS leaders who, he said, had influenced their followers with false teachings to such an extent that the followers considered it halal to kill government people or Umno members, as in the Nov. 19 Kampung Merali incident.