

NO PLACE IN B.N. FOR PAS, SAYS PM

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By ROBERT GOH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Pas will not be re-admitted into the Barisan Nasional, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, who is also chairman of the Barisan Nasional, said this when addressing about 3,500 workers from the Federal Territory component parties of the Barisan Nasional.

He said the recent *muzakarah* with Pas was also not aimed at inviting the party to join the Barisan.

"Once is enough", he said in reference to Pas' previous membership in the coalition.

Also present were MCA president Tan Koon Swan and MIC president Datuk S. Samy Vellu who earlier pledged full support for the Barisan Nasional and Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir added: "Earlier they claimed that only *kafirs* (infidels) had political relations with non-Muslims, saying the people in Umno were *kafirs* for co-operating with other parties.

Racial harmony

"Now look who is trying to woo support from the Chinese?"

On the April 9 meeting between Umno and Pas leaders at his residence, Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman and Umno president, said Umno was not trying to play a "devious game" with the other Barisan Nasional component parties when he held the discussions.

The meeting was to discuss Pas actions that had inflamed emotions of Malays in the rural areas and to ensure that disturbances would not occur in the country.

Alluding to the Memali incident of November last year, he said he had asked Pas not to raise

problems in the kampungs which could lead to violence.

"Some of them do not want discussions but only want to oppose us."

On racial harmony, he said Malaysians are peace-loving and should be proud of this.

While there is bound to be some dissatisfaction among communities in the country, at least there are no race riots or war.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman and Umno president, said the extent of racial tolerance in the country was such that there was "no problem" for him and Malaysian Indians to visit, say, Chinatown in the capital.

"Such a thing could not be done in a certain Western country, yet their own media would claim conditions there to be very harmonious.

"Actually they are jealous of the extent of our multi-racial harmony and therefore like to say that racial tension in the country is very high."

Some of the foreign delegates to the Pata conference earlier this month wept when they saw how the different communities could come together in peace, for example, to perform their own cultural dances at the same function.

"As for the racial riots of 1969, it was mainly restricted to Kuala Lumpur.

"For example, in Kedah at that time, Chinese working on the Muda irrigation scheme did so without need for anyone to protect them even though they were in a predominantly Malay area."

The Prime Minister contrasted the recent experience of a Malaysian businessman who was refused entry to a certain Western country to the Malaysian attitude in welcoming foreign tourists.

"Why, we are so tolerant and liberal we even allow them to go and see turtles in Terengganu."