

Opposition pact will be a flop, says Mahathir

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THE Pas-led opposition pact to deny the Barisan Nasional Government a two-thirds majority will fail, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the pact is not based on close cooperation but rather to meet individual gains during the general election.

The Prime Minister said opposition parties only sought close cooperation during the election but the Barisan Government always believed in working together for the people.

"The opposition parties are only kidding themselves if they expect the pact to succeed," he said.

Speaking to reporters after launching a low-cost housing project in Dusun Nanding, Hulu Langat, Dr Mahathir pointed out that before long the opposition parties will start "back-stabbing."

Reports over the weekend revealed that a four-party opposition pact called the People's Justice Movement (HAK) was formed to deny Barisan Nasional a two-thirds majority. The other members of the pact — Socialist Democratic Party (SDP), Parti Socialist Rakyat Malaysia (PSRM) and NasMa — have also agreed to respect Pas'

continuing struggle for an Islamic state.

However, DAP, the country's dominant opposition party is yet to join the pact.

Commenting on Pas' most recent plans, Dr Mahathir said it was very much like the party to preach something and do something else altogether.

"Pas once branded Umno as kafirs (infidels) because we worked with other non-Muslim parties. However, the time

has come for Pas to examine its own practices," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that Pas leaders would refrain from discussing the pact with its followers in Kelantan.

"They (Pas) have often operated by creating anti-Chinese sentiments in Kelantan to gain votes and I am sure the leaders would not discuss the pact in Kelantan," he said.

Dr Mahathir also denied rumours that the proposed

amendments to the controversial Section 21 (2) of the Education Act will not be carried out after all.

"These rumours are being spread by certain quarters to obtain political clout and we should not be perturbed by them," he said.

The Prime Minister, however, declined to comment on the coming general election. When asked if the present situation is ideal to hold the election, he said: "The situation is always ideal."