

Mahathir dares PAS: Say it in Kelantan

By ROBERT HO 

ULU LANGAT, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad challenged PAS today to announce in Kelantan that the party would work with non-Islamic parties in the coming general election.

The Prime Minister said PAS had been telling its members that the Press has

been "lying" in its reports that the party was co-operating with other parties in forming an Opposition front.

PAS Youth leaders, he said, were even trying to stir up anti-Chinese sentiments in Kelantan by telling the Malays that the Government was selling land in Kota Baru to the Chinese.

Dr Mahathir said the PAS strategy in the west coast

was different. It co-operates with the Chinese Consultative Councils and the SDP to reduce anti-Malay feelings.

PAS had admitted that it must work with non-Muslims and was wooing the Chinese in several west coast States, Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching the Government's special low-cost housing programme in Dusun Nanning

near here.

"But in Kelantan they dare not announce this. (Instead) they say they are by themselves and that they are not co-operating with non-Muslims," Dr Mahathir said.

"I would like PAS to announce in Kelantan that they are co-operating with other non-Islamic parties."

The Prime Minister said he was confident PAS would

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not dare to make his challenge.

On the PAS-led People's Justice Movement or *Harakah Keadilan Rakyat* (HAK), Dr Mahathir said there was no way that the front could win in the general election because its component parties were not "honest."

"These parties would try to cheat each other and start "back-stabbing one

another," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan chairman and Umno president, said the opposition parties were co-operating "just for the election in order to get votes."

"Our co-operation is different and it exists even when there are no elections," he said.

Asked whether the Umno political bureau would meet tomorrow, Dr Mahathir said "probably it will."

He said the bureau would meet whether or not there were elections.

Asked if it was suitable to hold a general election now, he replied: "It is always suitable."

On the Opposition's claim that the Government would not keep its promise to amend Section 21 (2) of the Education Act, Dr Mahathir said: "There is no way you can stop these people from having their rumours because these rumours are beneficial to them."