

Pas in electoral pact with DAP, says Dr Mahathir

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BAHAU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas had entered into a secret electoral pact with the DAP.

Denials by both parties and public statements by their leaders that they were disappointed over their inability to form a pact were mere pretences, he said.

The Barisan Nasional leader said Pas had been begging for a pact with the DAP. Now that it was there, Pas should make public the arrangement.

"But then Pas wants to deceive the people so it will still have support from the Muslims, while enjoying the help of the DAP," he told about 3,000 Felda settlers in Palong,

where he later declared opened a clinic.

He said that based on the candidates fielded by Pas and the DAP it was clear that the two parties had come to an electoral understanding.

He said the move was aimed at splitting the votes to deny BN candidates victory.

He added that for a constituency with predominantly Chinese voters, Pas' role was to distract the Malay voters to allow the DAP to capture Chinese and Indian votes.

In Malay majority constituencies, DAP candidates were expected to draw away non-Malay votes to help Pas candi-

dates win.

Dr Mahathir said Umno did not have to resort to such clandestine pacts. Everything it does was in the open.

It had been co-operating with non-Malay parties since 1951, and after the 1969 general election had even broadened the co-operation to include more parties so that all communities in the country were represented in the Government.

He wondered how Pas could form a united opposition front with the non-Muslim parties and have an electoral understanding with the DAP when it had branded Umno as *ka-fir* for co-operating with the Chinese and Indians.

As for the DAP, Dr Mahathir said it only had the word "democracy" in its name while its actions did not reflect so.

"While we ended our administration earlier to give the people a chance to choose a new Government, in view of claims by the Opposition that they enjoy wider

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support now, the DAP tried to stop the election," he said.

"The party failed but has announced that it would try to get the general election declared null and void.

"Surely this is an attempt to waste all the efforts by the Government in calling for the election and the efforts of the voters in coming out to vote," he said.

"This will amount to denying seven million Malaysians their right to vote."

Dr Mahathir's visit here was to lend support to the BN candidate for the Jempol parliamentary seat, Haji Khalid Yunus, and BN State candidates Ibrahim Haji Ali (Serting), Lilah Yassin (Batu Kikir) and Baharuddin Haji Hassan (Palong).

The Prime Minister also hit out at Pas for accusing the BN of not generating enough progress and development for the people.

He said one had only to fly from Johore Baru to Kangar to see the progress and development in the country.

He also chided Pas for accusing the BN of not doing enough for the poor.

"If the people are poor, how could they have donated money and jewellery when attending Pas *ceramah*?"

He added efforts were being made to alleviate the plight of the poor and the landless by opening more Felda schemes.

"However, those who apply for places in Felda schemes number in the tens of thousands.

"We can only accommodate a small percentage of the applicants. But this does not mean that our efforts to help the poor and landless are over. In fact it is an ongoing process.

The Prime Minister also dealt at length on Opposition campaigns to deny the BN a two-third majority in Parliament.

He stressed that the BN needed the two-third majority in Parliament to allow the people to have a strong Government to make decisions for progress and development.

"Candidates of the ruling party will also benefit in the sense that if the BN secures the two-third majority, requests for development aid for their constituents have a better chance of being entertained."

"If BN is not given this two-third majority then the BN and the Opposition would end up wasting time and efforts trying to topple each other by encouraging cross-overs instead of bringing development and progress to the country," he said.