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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 27 (BERNAMA) -- THE AIM OF THE 13-PARTY BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COALITION IS SOLELY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND DEVELOP THE NATION, BN CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE COALITION WAS FORMED OPENLY IN A SPIRIT OF SINCERITY, UNLIKE THE OPPOSITION FRONT WHOSE EARLY FORMATION WAS THROUGH CLANDESTINE MEETINGS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OFFICIATING AT THE EARTH-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE +SRI KEDAH+ LOW-COST FLAT PROJECT AT GOMBAK NEAR HERE. THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1,000 UNITS OF FLATS.

+THE COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, SABAH AND SARAWAK UNDER THE BANNER OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IS AIMED AT FORGING COOPERATION AND UNITY AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND ENSURING THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY; + HE SAID.

IN THE CURRENT GENERAL ELECTION, THERE WAS COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS COMPONENT PARTIES AND THERE WAS NO PARTY ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT ITS PARTNERS BY FIELDING INDEPENDENTS AGAINST OFFICIAL BN CANDIDATES, HE SAID.

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MAHATHIR-PACT 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD FAILED TO FORM A PACT LIKE THE BN AND WERE NOW SHOWING SIGNS OF DISUNITY AFTER ONLY FOUR DAYS INTO THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

THE OPPOSITION PACT GROUPING PAS, NASMA, PSRM, SDP AND THE WORKERS PARTY (PPM) NOW REMAINED ONLY IN NAME AND VOTING FOR THEM WAS FUTILE AND OF NO BENEFIT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID SDP CHAIRMAN AHMAD NOR TRIED TO MAKE USE OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES ISSUE TO ADVANCE HIS POLITICAL INTERESTS WHEN HE WAS CUEPACS PRESIDENT BUT FAILED.

HE NOW HAD TO PURSUE HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN THE SDP WHICH, ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WAS NOT AN INFLUENTIAL PARTY AND NOT LIKELY TO GET THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

THE SALARY CLAIMS ISSUE HAD BEEN SETTLED AND CIVIL SERVANTS NO LONGER SHOWED DISAFFECTION TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT. IN FACT CUEPACS, WHICH CHAMPIONED THE ISSUE, HAD DECLARED ITS NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTION, HE ADDED.

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 MAHATHIR-PACT 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PAS INITIATIVE IN ORGANISING CHINESE CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS (CCC) AND COOPERATING WITH THE CHINESE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE HAD COLLAPSED BECAUSE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP HAD SAID NON-MUSLIMS COULD NOT CONTEST IN THE ELECTION ON A PAS TICKET.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HIT OUT AT PAS FOR ASSOCIATING ALLAH WITH ORDINARY PORTALS BY CLAIMING PAS WAS THE PARTY OF ALLAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER PUT A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO PAS, PARTICULARLY TO ITS VICE-PRESIDENT HAJI HADI AWANG, ON THE PARTY'S INTENTION TO SET UP AN ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT.

AMONG THE QUESTIONS WERE:

+WILL PAS IMPOSE THE HUDUD LAW (CUTTING OFF THE HANDS AND LEGS AND BEHEADING) ONLY ON MUSLIMS OR ON NON-MUSLIMS AS WELL?

+WHO WILL SENTENCE UNDER THE HUDUD LAW, ONLY MUSLIM JUDGES OR WILL NON-MUSLIM JUDGES ALSO BE APPOINTED?

+WILL NON-MUSLIMS ALSO BE ALLOWED TO VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS? IF NOT, IT IS CERTAIN THAT 46 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION WILL LOSE THEIR VOTING RIGHT. -- MORE

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 MAHATHIR-PACT 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN THEY ELECTED THE BN, THE PEOPLE WOULD KNOW WHAT THEY WERE IN FOR BECAUSE OF THE BN'S PROVEN CAPABILITY AND PERFORMANCE, BUT THERE WAS NO SUCH FORESIGHT WITH PAS OR THE DAP.

EARLIER, OPENING THE DATUK KERAMAT MARKET AND BUSINESS CENTRE, BOTH URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE VIGILANT TO PAS AND DAP'S COOPERATION TACTICS TO THWART A BN ELECTORAL VICTORY.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THE MALAYS, CHINESE AND INDIAN VOTERS WOULD NOT FALL VICTIM TO THE SECRET ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES WHOSE EVIL EFFORTS, HE SAID, WERE DOOMED TO FAILURE.

HE SAID THE BN WAS CONTESTING FOR ALL 177 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, AND EVERY ONE OF THE 13 PARTIES IN THE COALITION WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT IT EXPECTED TO FORM AFTER NEXT SUNDAY'S POLLS.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, AND THE BN CANDIDATES FOR TITIWANGSA (DRS SULAIMAN MOHAMED), BATU (DATUK ALEX LEE) AND KEPONG (LAM WENG KEONG). --

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