

— Explain Islamic state, PAS challenged —

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By SHARIF HARON

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad challenged PAS yesterday to explain to the voters, especially the non-Muslims, the kind of Islamic state that it hopes to establish if it comes to power to see if it will still have support.

The PAS manifesto unveiled on Saturday has left unanswered many questions regarding the party's Islamic state concept, Dr Mahathir said when launching the Datuk Keramat new market and shopping centre redevelopment project.

"From arguments and speeches by its leaders, it seems that they are unsure of what they have in mind," he

told hundreds of supporters who braved heavy rain to welcome him.

"PAS said it will abolish the Penal Code if it gets to form the government. We like to ask them whether they want to cut off people's hands, legs and heads in accordance with the *Hudud* laws.

"If so, PAS should try explaining this to the Chinese," he added.

Dr Mahathir also dared PAS to tell the DAP and the non-Muslim voters that only Muslims can become judges under the so-called Islamic laws PAS hopes to uphold.

He added it was all too easy for PAS to talk about Islamic principles in its manifesto but it has failed to elaborate these and also failed to live with reality.

The DAP also came under heavy fire from the Prime Minister. He described the party as racist in nature, which will never look after the interests of all the races in the Malaysian multi-racial society fairly.

"Surely the DAP cannot serve the people of Datuk Keramat, simply because they cannot represent the squatters," he said.

Datuk Keramat is in the Titiwangsa constituency, where there will be a three-cornered fight between Barisan Nasional's Dr Suleiman Mohamed, PAS's Dr Haji Abbas Alias and DAP's Yee Kai Wah.

Dr Mahathir said one of the few things the DAP always knows how to do is to criticise. Another is to take their enemies to court.

"The DAP is only there to make the backlog of court cases worse. There are 300,000 court cases that have not been settled, including cases on drugs. Yet even on the holding of the general election the DAP

wants to take somebody to court.

"In doing so the DAP is wasting the court's precious time and government money," he added.

Dr Mahathir said if there is one party that can serve the people wisely, it has to be the Barisan Nasional. He explained to the Datuk Keramat voters why they should vote the Barisan.

"Your representative has to liaise with the ruling party, otherwise it will be difficult for him to carry out his duties. The government is ready to offer help but the best channel must be there to ensure effectiveness and results," Dr Mahathir said.

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