

PM: The pact is a collusion of cheats

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TAIPING, Wed. — The opposition pact among five parties is a collusion of cheats, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said PAS was cheating SDP, PRSM and NasMa while the three were criticising PAS for insincerity in fielding candidates in their areas.

PAS was doing the same thing to the Chinese Consultative Committee (CCC), he said.

Dr Mahathir said the CCC was formed by PAS to attract Chinese voters but had now lost its sense of

direction.

The CCC, he added, was initially attracted by PAS' sweet words and held high hopes, believing it could contest in the election under the PAS banner.

"But they have found out to their dismay that they cannot contest as they are not Muslims.

"The CCC is now wandering aimlessly. It cannot join the Barisan out of shame because its leaders have obviously been taken in by PAS," he told a gathering of about 4,000 people at the Taiping Town Hall here.

Dr Mahathir said the pact was formed for the express purpose of winning this election.

On the other hand, the Alliance and the Barisan Nasional were formed much earlier and continued to exist well after the elections.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the general election was not so much to choose a representative for the people as to form a government.

He said the party must have a big enough majority to form a government.

"It is the government which has

the power to do things. The representative is a postman to convey the people's wishes to the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said though an Opposition representative could oppose government policies in the legislature, he could not ask for anything. A Barisan candidate however would be able to convey the people's wishes effectively, he said.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib and Taiping candidate Datuk Paul Leong.