

# Dr M tells Pas to learn from the communists

By Vijayan Menon

TEMERLOH, Mon. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the Communist Party of Malaya has ended its 41-year armed struggle because it had failed to get the support of the people.

"The progress, stability and harmony among the various communities in the country made the communists realise the futility of their struggle," he said.

He said Pas should follow the example set by the communists led by their leader Chin Peng and give up their useless struggle.

"The leaders who formed Pas were formally disgruntled members of Umno who had failed to obtain positions of power in Umno," he added.

He said leaders of Pas merely made use of Islam as a tool to further their selfish ends and win elections.

"Is the position of Islam in Ke-

lantan which the Pas ruled for 18 years any better than in other States in the country?"

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, added that Pas leaders were not out to create an Islamic State but to use religion to further their political ambitions.

He said this at the State Umno unity gathering at the Tun Razak Hall here today.

He said Umno did not coerce anyone to embrace Islam. The party was responsible for the well-being of all the races and always worked for the progress and stability of the nation.

"Umno is a mature party and its leaders subscribed to the Barisan concept. We believe in ruling the country based on laws and not on emotion. Politics based on emotion is detrimental to the stability and progress of the party as well as the nation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said members should not stop supporting Umno if their candidates lost in

an election.

"Umno's struggle is to forge a strong and united party which will be able to safeguard the rights of the Malays and future of the country," he said.

He said the people should not take the peace and stability of the country for granted.

"They should be grateful for the favourable conditions enjoyed by Malaysians."

He said several countries, such as the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India, experienced racial violence and political instability.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would continue to breach the gap between the rich and the poor and carry out development projects according to availability of funds.

Also present were Menteri Besar and Pahang Umno liaison committee chairman Tan Sri Haji Khalil Yaakob, Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak and veteran Umno leaders.