

Opposition 'has no strong, single party'

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JERANTUT, Sat. — The co-operation among Semangat 46, the DAP and Pas has all the ingredients of a divisive and weak Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

If, indeed, they could win the number of seats they had predicted in the general election they would be spending their time afterwards quarrelling about power sharing, the Prime Minister said to Pahang Umno leaders here today.

Dr Mahathir said if their prediction came true, there would be no party strong enough to hold the coalition.

This is unlike the Barisan Nasional Government which has a track record of

strong co-operation with Umno as the leading force.

He urged State Umno leaders and workers to ensure that the Barisan Nasional did well in the coming election.

Umno's guiding principle was to look after the interests of the people and the nation and not to further personal interests or ambitions.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition parties had predicted that they would win up to 95 seats in Parliament. Of these, Semangat 46 said it would win 40, the DAP 30 and Pas 25.

This type of co-operation had existed in many countries and none had been lasting or able to serve the

people well, he said before urging the people to return a strong Government in the coming election.

He reminded the Malays and the Muslims, who despite making up only 52 per cent of the population, were able to provide a strong leadership for the country.

He said they should not gamble with their future.

Earlier, when speaking to the people of Pulau Kampung Mansok, five kilometres from here, the Prime Minister said Semangat 46 was made up of dissatisfied politicians who were trying to obtain votes from dissatisfied people.

He said the party existed to satisfy the ambition of only one man who had failed to fulfil his desire

through Umno.

He said even Pas which had always claimed to stand for Islam had been caught in the race for power to the point that it had abandoned its original struggle.

Pas leaders who once labelled Umno members and leaders as *kafir* because they shared power with the non-Muslims were themselves now scrambling for co-operation with non-Muslims.

He said Pas was obsessed with wanting to win that it kept courting the DAP which had repeatedly rejected its overtures unless the party gave up its struggle for an Islamic State.