

Mahathir-Tunku ""

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad today exposed a scheme by Parti Semangat 46 to pit former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman against him in Kubang Pasu in the next general election.

The prime minister said the leaders of the opposition party were making use of the Tunku without regard for his age and health but solely to influence the people for their own interests.

He said that their actions had tarnished the Tunku's name and that he was no longer respected by the people.

In the process (of the campaign), the Tunku's name is tarnished. Everyone is angry (at the Tunku). Actually, the people should not be angry. I am not angry at Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. I respect him,+ he said when addressing a gathering at Bandar Tun Razak in Cheras, here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Parti Semangat 46 leaders had taken the Tunku to Wang Tepus in the parliamentary constituency of Kubang Pasu to campaign for Pas when the Tunku himself had never agreed with that party. -- more

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The prime minister said the Tunku had been taken there to influence people of Thai origin because the Tunku, who is adviser of Parti Semangat 46, is of Thai descent.

Let's not trouble the Tunku because he is already old. He has served the nation. Let him be ... this is not good. This is the action of people who want to use an individual for self-interest, although the Tunku is already old and is not well,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he believed that one day the leaders of Parti Semangat 46 would just forget the Tunku when his services were no longer needed.

These people (Semangat 46 leaders) are capable of using anyone for their own interests. Today when we are found to be useful, they will use us. Tomorrow when they find we are of use no longer, they will discard us,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this group of leaders did the same thing to Umno after having failed to secure positions in the party at one time. -- more

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The prime minister questioned the attempt by Pas and DAP leaders to forge cooperation between their parties when he said one was unable to accept the principles of struggle of the other.

He asked what the stand of Pas president Haji Fadzil Nor was against the DAP's +Malaysian Malaysia+ policy and what DAP's Encik Tun Kit Siang felt about Pas' intention to establish an Islamic state.

He said the image of the DAP had been tarnished and that Pas's struggle was no longer meaningful because they cooperated in accordance with the whims of Parti Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Pas and DAP leaders often twisted their statements on cooperation between the two parties when they campaigned in the east and west coasts of Peninsular Malaysia.

When they (Pas leaders) come to the west coast, they say something else. When they return to the east coast they do not speak of the DAP. DAP leaders, when they go to the east coast, speak in terms of cooperation with Pas,+ he said. -- more

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Earlier, MCA Wanita chief Cik Teng Gai Kwan said the MCA would continue to assist the people in the city although the party had no elected representative in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Sulaiman Mohamed, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu also spoke.

Before addressing the gathering at Bandar Tun Razak, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Ali and the Barisan Nasional leaders went on a bus tour of Air Panas, Setapak, the City Hall housing project in Gombak, Bandar Menjalara in Kepong, and Taman Kuchai, Sungai Besi. -- Bernama