

# Dr M. Semangat wants Tunku to face me

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and Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today exposed plans by Semangat 46 to nominate Tunku Abdul Rahman to contest the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Kubang Pasu MP, said Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had brought the ailing Tunku to a Pas ceramah at Wang Tepus in an attempt to influence voters of Thai origin.

This, said the Prime Minister, was an example of the desperate moves by the opposition to topple the Barisan Nasional Government.

Speaking at a gathering of Barisan Nasional members and supporters at Bandar Tun Razak here, Dr Mahathir said it was

best that the Tunku be left alone in his respectable position as the former Prime Minister of the country.

He deplored the move as it would discredit the former Prime Minister whom the people and the nation loved and respected for his undisputed contributions to the country.

He was sad at the way Semangat 46 was using the Tunku to gain political mileage.

## Selfish

"Recently, at a Pas ceramah in Kubang Pasu, the Tunku was invited as a speaker.

"The people know Tunku Abdul Rahman's feelings towards Pas in the past and I do not understand why they must make use of him knowing that he is old and not in good health."

Dr Mahathir, who drew applause throughout his address to about 10,000 people, said such moves by the

opposition would only tarnish the image of the former Prime Minister.

He said such selfish politicians would make use of anybody as long as the person could serve their purpose. They would discard him when he was no longer of any use to them.

The Prime Minister said the group had disregarded the contributions made by the former Prime Minister.

He also took to task Pas president Haji Fadzil Nor for not upholding the principles and ideologies of his party.

"Pas is fighting for an Islamic State and yet it now wants to co-operate with the DAP which is campaigning for a Malaysian Malaysia.

"I want Pas and DAP to explain to the people how they can co-operate when they have entirely different

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ideologies and principles."

Dr Mahathir was also puzzled why urban voters rejected the Barisan component parties in elections.

He said people in the urban areas had been enjoying much more benefits than those in the rural and outlying areas and this was due to efforts by the Government in proving more development in urban areas.

"But the past general elections have shown that the urban electorate always favour opposition parties.

"We hope they will change this attitude and vote for the Barisan Nasional Government which will be able to provide much better facilities for them."

Dr Mahathir said the opposition parties were also making an issue of toll collections along highways.

He said the Government would, from time to time, decide on whether the toll rates should be reduced, but would not abolish it.

"If we do so, then we have to increase other duties such as road tax which will not benefit anyone."

The Prime Minister said the economic growth rate in Malaysia was one of the highest in the world.

He said the 10.4 per cent growth rate for the first three months of this year could not be matched by any other country.

## Jobs

"The country is politically and economically stable and that is why foreign investments for the first six months of this year has reached \$23 billion as compared to a total of \$11 billion for the whole of last year.

"This shows the confidence foreigners have in Malaysia and yet we have trade unionists who condemn the Government at any opportunity."

He said MTUC president Encik Zainal Rampak and secretary-general Mr V. David had openly requested the US to withdraw Malaysia's Generalised System of Preferences status.

"If the GSP status is removed, thousands will be jobless.

"What have Encik Zainal and Mr David done to ensure that there are ample employment opportunities for our youth?"