

PAS, DAP trying to deceive followers, says PM

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PRIME Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS and the DAP are trying to deceive their followers when they say that they are not helping each other in the coming election.

"From the seat allocation, we can see that PAS and the DAP are obviously helping each other out. Yet, they told their supporters that they would have nothing to do with each other," he told a news conference after unveiling the BN manifesto in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said leaders of the two parties are aware that, due to the vast party ideologies, supporters cannot accept their joining hands in the election. "They can't afford to let their supporters know."

He said unlike the BN, the Opposition also cannot agree on a single manifesto owing also to the inability of their leaders to see eye to eye on matters of principles.

In view of the split in the opposition front, the absence of issues which can be used against the BN Government and the ruling coalition's record, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he is confident the ruling coalition will obtain two-thirds of the seats in the election.

In response to another query, he said a two-party Government may be practicable, but in many cases this system will lead to a Government that is both weak and vulnerable to threats from either party.

Bernama adds: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said a former Finance Minister was responsible for the economic slump faced by the country in the 1980s.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir did not name the minister but said he served in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

He said the Government had succeeded in consolidating its financial position since then so as to be able to re-pay the debts.

According to him, the opposition parties are clearly exhausted of ideas to the extent that they had to resort to attacking RTM's current Telethon Week campaign, alleging that it is a means to seek money for the BN.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also held a closed-door meeting last night in Kuching, Sarawak with BN leaders and BN candidates contesting in parliamentary seats in the state.