

BM

SEREMBAN, OCT 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED PAS DEPUTY PRESIDENT HAJI ABDUL HADI AWANG FOR HIS STATEMENT YESTERDAY THAT MISFORTUNE WILL BEFALL VOTERS IF THEY ELECT REPRESENTATIVES WHO SUPPORT UNISLAMIC CAUSES.

+I WANT TO ASK HIM... IS IT NOT SINFUL OF HIM TO COOPERATE WITH THE DAP?+ THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED. HE ALSO SAID THAT UMNO, WHOSE MEMBERS WERE MUSLIMS, WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH PAS BUT PAS REJECTED IT.

+BUT THEY ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH (DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM) KIT SIANG AND AN EXTREMIST CHINESE EDUCATION GROUP,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH BARISAN NASIONAL ELECTION CANDIDATES AND WORKERS AT THE SEREMBAN MUNICIPAL HALL HERE.

NEGERI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR, DATUK HAJI MOHAMED ISA HAJI ABDUL SAMAD, SAID PAS WAS WORRIED AND HAJI ABDUL HAJI WAS FORCED TO ISSUE +A NEW RULING+ TO SAVE THE PARTY AFTER IT HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF COOPERATING WITH PARTI SEMANGAT 46 AND THE DAP.

HE ADDED: +THEREFORE, (HAJI) HADI IS FORCED TO DO WHAT HE HAS DONE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. PREVIOUSLY, THOSE WHO VOTED FOR UMNO WERE INFIDELS. NOW, THOSE WHO VOTE THE BARISAN NASIONAL WILL HAVE TO SUFFER MISFORTUNE.+ -- MORE

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HE ALSO SAID THAT PAS HAD ACTUALLY ACCEPTED DEFEAT IN 61 CONSTITUENCIES IT HAD CONTESTED IN THE 1986 ELECTION AS THE PARTY HAD HANDED OVER THESE SEATS TO SEMANGAT 46.

SEMANGAT 46 WAS CUNNING ENOUGH TO COAX PAS FOR THE SEATS, SO MUCH SO THAT PAS WHICH CONTESTED 93 SEATS IN 1986 HAD ONLY FIELDDED CANDIDATES IN 32 CONSTITUENCIES IN THIS ELECTION, HE ADDED.

+THIS MEANS PAS BELIEVES THAT IT CAN ONLY WIN 32 CONSTITUENCIES WHILE HARAKAH (THE PAS OFFICIAL ORGAN) SAYS THE NUMBER OF MALAY-MAJORITY CONSTITUENCIES HAS INCREASED TO 96. THIS MEANS PAS KNOWS THAT IT WILL LOSE IN 61 CONSTITUENCIES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS LEADERS WERE NO LONGER CHAMPIONING THE PARTY'S PRINCIPLES BUT ONLY WANTED TO WIN THE ELECTION TO BECOME +AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT+.

HE ADDED THAT MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE OPPOSITION HAD BECOME SO DISILLUSIONED THAT SOME CROSSED OVER TO UMNO AND OTHERS CLOSED THEIR ELECTION OPERATIONS ROOMS AND NO LONGER WANTED TO WORK FOR THE OPPOSITION.

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DATUK HAJI MOHAMED ISA SAID HE SAW NO TRUTH IN HAJI HADI'S STATEMENT.

IN HIS SPEECH EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN, SAID PAS LIED WHEN IT DENIED COOPERATING WITH THE DAP. +THEY ARE NOT COOPERATING IN THE OPEN BUT ON THE SLY,+ HE ADDED.

CITING THE ELECTION CONTEST FOR THE ALOR SETAR PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAS HAD NOT FIELDDED ITS CANDIDATE THERE TO ENABLE THE DAP TO GARNER THE VOTES OF PAS SUPPORTERS TO DEFEAT THE BN'S MCA CANDIDATE.

HE SAID THAT IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 1986, PAS AND DAP RECEIVED ABOUT 9,000 VOTES EACH WHILE THE BN CANDIDATE OBTAINED MORE THAN 16,000 VOTES. IN THIS ELECTION, THE DAP WAS HOPING FOR THE PAS VOTE TO WIN THE SEAT, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THIS SORT OF COOPERATION IS ALSO APPARENT IN THE CONTEST FOR THE PADANG GARONG STATE SEAT IN KELANTAN WHERE THE DAP FIELDDED ITS CANDIDATE TO PREVENT THE CHINESE VOTES FROM GOING TO THE BN CANDIDATE SO THAT THE BERJASA CANDIDATE COULD WIN. -- MORE

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ON THE ELECTION PREPARATIONS OF THE NEGERI SEMBILAN BN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS PROUD THAT SEVERAL LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE LINE-UP OF CANDIDATES, SUCH AS MIC VICE-PRESIDENT, DATUK K.PATHMANABAN, ALSO WORKED HARD IN THE CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE.

HE SAID DATUK PATHMANABAN, WHO WAS DEPUTY HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTER, NOT ONLY HELPED TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE BN CANDIDATE WHO REPLACED HIM IN TELUK KEMANG BUT ALSO HELPED OUT IN KUALA LUMPUR.

DATUK PATHMANABAN WAS PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BN WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN WINNING IN SABAH AND SARAWAK BECAUSE COMPONENT PARTIES THERE WERE NOT CONTESTING AGAINST EACH OTHER.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HELD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH BN CANDIDATES IN THE STATE AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE MENTERI BESAR. --
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