

MAHATHIR: PAS AND DAP IN CAHOOTS

By Wong Sai Wan

SEREMBAN, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the DAP and PAS are in cahoots though Semangat president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah claims there are two opposition fronts.

The Prime Minister said the two opposition manifestos — one for the west coast and the other the east coast — were meant to trick the people.

He said: "All this is just a ploy to pull wool over the people's eyes."

"The fact is that the DAP and PAS are in cahoots. In the daytime they sit apart but at night they work together."

Citing Alor Star as an example, he said: "In 1986, it was a three-cornered fight between Barisan, PAS and DAP."



"Barisan obtained 16,000 odd votes while DAP and PAS obtained about 9,000 votes each."

"This time, PAS has given way to the DAP because they know that if they work together they could get more votes than Barisan. Isn't that working together?"

The Barisan Nasional chairman was speaking to reporters after addressing 1,000 Barisan workers.

He also said cracks were beginning to appear in the opposition parties

with many of their members crossing over to Umno, adding that many opposition members were already giving up.

"Take PAS for example. Even before nomination day, they had admitted defeat in 61 seats."

"In 1986, PAS contested 93 seats but this time they are only contesting 32 seats because they know they cannot win the other 61, which is why they are willing to let Semangat 46 contest those seats."

"They are hoping that

Semangat 46 can help them in the other 32 seats," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the *Gagasan Rakyat* manifesto was not a genuine manifesto but one meant to fish for votes.

"The author of this manifesto is a spendthrift. When he (Tengku Razaleigh) was the Finance Minister, he kept on spending money and the country kept on incurring debts with the World Bank. Today, we are still repaying the debts he incurred," he said.

He said the *Gagasan Rakyat* manifesto also meant less development for the poorer states.

"They plan to increase oil royalties for the oil states, like Terengganu, Sabah and Sarawak, and this will mean less money for the Federal Govern-

ment," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said the opposition had no issues to raise because all the government projects had succeeded.

On Semangat 46 deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim, Dr Mahathir said that he had also helped Datuk Rais when he was with the Government.

"I gave him a chance to be Mentri Besar and Minister, but he forgets all I have done for him. He has instead turned against me."

"The people of Jelebu had better not vote for him because they would end up being his victims as he will not remember the deeds they have done for him," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir held a closed-door meeting with Barisan candidates.