

# PM: Link with PBS and DAP won't help Pas

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked Pas leaders whether they could place their trust in the PBS and DAP to help them form an Islamic state if the Opposition managed to win the general election.

"Pas is only contesting 30 parliamentary seats and it would require the combined seats won by the DAP, PBS, PRM and Semangat 46 for it to command a two-thirds majority.

"Would the PBS and DAP allow Pas to set up an Islamic state?" Dr Mahathir asked.

He said Pas supporters were backing the party leaders blindly and were not thinking of the current political situation in which Pas would obviously never be able to implement its claims of creating an Islamic nation.

The BN, Dr Mahathir said, did not go around, "shouting" of creating an Islamic nation, but implemented programmes for the development of Islam.

"But what does Pas have to show besides its claims of creating an Islamic na-

tion? It joined forces with political parties which are out to divide the Muslims and also to disrupt the smooth administration of the country.

"In Terengganu and Kelantan, Pas has some support because some people sincerely believe in Pas' struggle for Islam, but in reality, Pas leaders are lying and their claims of struggling for Islam are merely to fish for votes,"

Dr Mahathir told a gathering of BN candidates and party workers at Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad's residence here.

He said Pas, in its manifesto, had dropped the "Islamic state" term and only used "together with Islam" when it realised that with the former term it could not get the support of the non-Muslims.

"When the Press highlighted this before the man-

ifesto was produced, Pas leaders denied it vehemently. But read their manifesto today and you will find that it is true that they had dropped the term."

Dr Mahathir also questioned the Opposition's promises of abolishing taxes and tolls, which would mean a loss of some \$1 billion in revenue for the Government.

"The opposition leaders also promised an increase in salary and allowances which when calculated would incur at least an additional \$2 billion in expenditure.

"The promises would cost a deficit of at least \$3 billion in the Government's budget and I wonder where they (the opposition leaders) would find the money to meet their promises."

However, Dr Mahathir said, it would not be surprising as Semangat 46 leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was in the habit of acquiring loans even when he was the Finance Minister.

Dr Mahathir, who was on a half-day visit to the State, said Pas should also State clearly its reasons for wanting to open the door of conciliation with Umno.