

Opposition pact won't last, voters reminded

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By Ahmad A. Talib

TELUK INTAN, Thurs. — With two days to go before polling, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded voters not to respond to an opposition pact made to last only for the general election.

He said the pact among the opposition parties was made only to serve the narrow interests of ambitious politicians who are out to create disunity.

"The election is not the time and place to gamble the country's stability and future," he said at a gathering in Sekolah Menengah Hutan Melintang, 15km from here.

Dr Mahathir came to Hutan Melintang for a two-hour stopover on his way from Kota Baru to Parit Buntar.

He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah

Talib and several other State and Federal dignitaries.

Dr Mahathir said only the time-tested Barisan Nasional coalition could offer the people an effective Government.

"It is through the spirit of *musyawarah* (consensus) that BN has been able to provide the vision and leadership the country needs.

"Opposition pacts such as the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah and Gagasan Rakyat will not last and are merely a tool of political convenience.

"It's only a matter of time before latent problems within the pacts emerge and spill over into serious trouble."

Dr Mahathir was taken on a motorcade preceded by several hundred motorcyclists wearing white and red T-shirts depicting BN and Umno symbols.