

# Mahathir: PBS will regret believing 'kingmakers' notion

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the PBS will regret believing in Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's notion that Sabah and Sarawak are the "kingmakers" in deciding who should lead the Government.

He said PBS had made a miscalculation by believing that "it is they who crown the person who hold the reins of government".

"PBS wants to be a 'kingmaker', to decide who should rule. This is a miscalculation ... it will regret later," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir when addressing a people's gathering at Sekolah Menengah Hutan Melintang about 12km from Teluk Intan yesterday.

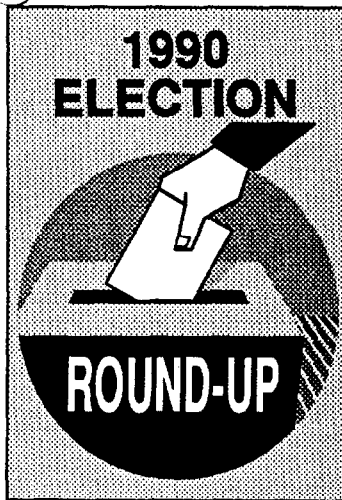
He said PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan believed that citizens in the peninsula were divided into two factions and whichever faction it supported would win in Sunday's general election.

The Prime Minister said BN component parties in Sarawak do not subscribe to Tengku Razaleigh's notion and have remained with the BN.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the BN has always stressed on racial co-existence in the peninsula as well as in Sabah and Sarawak.

However, he said, Datuk Seri Pairin only spoke about Sabah and the Kadazan community as though "he is living outside Malaysia".

As such, he said, it will be difficult for the BN to cooperate with such greedy people.



In Parit Buntar, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno must win all the 87 parliamentary seats it is contesting to be the pillar of strength of the BN Government to be formed later.

With Umno winning all the seats it contests, the party will be the spine of the coalition Government which no quarters can easily dismantle, he said.

Earlier in Kota Baru, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF) scandal cannot be settled through a royal commission of inquiry as it is a criminal case.

The investigation into the matter should be conducted by the relevant authorities, he told reporters after a meeting with Kelantan

BN candidates at the Umno building in Kota Baru.

He said that furthermore, a committee headed by former Auditor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin Zakaria had already been set up to investigate the scandal. The other two members of the committee were accountant Ramli Ibrahim and lawyer Chooi Mun Sou.

Both Mr Chooi and Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin are now clearly on the side of Tengku Razaleigh, he added.

"Now we doubt whether the commission was really independent," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was commenting on yesterday's press reports that quoted Tengku Razaleigh as saying that he welcomed the setting up of a royal commission of inquiry to investigate the BMF scandal.

He also said the cooperation between Semangat 46 and PBS shows that Tengku Razaleigh supports the setting up of a television station to propagate Christianity in the state.

Datuk Seri Pairin had explained the purpose of wanting to set up the television station in his election manifesto and said the Semangat 46 manifesto was similar to his, the Prime Minister added.

"Thus, Tengku Razaleigh supports the setting up of the television station. So, I can't imagine what it will be like when he becomes Prime Minister," he said.