

Dr M: Lack of co-operation in APU will be its downfall

By Syed Abu Bakar

JITRA, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the lack of co-operation between Pas and other component parties in the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah will get worse in the future.

The lack of co-operation was evident when Semangat 46 was forced to strive hard to obtain the second Deputy Menteri Besar's post in Kelantan. It only succeeded after Kelantan royalty stepped in.

"This showed the lack of co-operation between the parties, which I am certain will deteriorate in future," Dr Mahathir said in his

speech as chairman of the Kubang Pasu Umno division, which held its delegates' meeting at the Muadzam Shah hall, Darulaman Teachers' Training Institute (IPDA), today.

He said Pas had shown that the party would not co-operate with the other APU component parties right from the start.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the APU component parties would not succeed in administering Kelantan and would have failed even if they had won in other States.

He said he had predicted from the beginning that there could be no co-operation among the APU mem-

bers to find a workable solution to administer the country.

He said Pas contested in most seats in Kelantan, leaving only a few to Semangat 46.

Dr Mahathir said Pas' co-operation with the Parti Bersatu Sabah was also bound to fail because the Sabah party had no intention to co-operate with any peninsula-based party.

He stressed that the PBS, which had co-operated with the DAP, had stabbed it in the back to ensure that it failed in the State.

The PBS had also treated the Barisan Nasional in the same manner when it withdrew from the ruling coal-

ition after nomination day for the recent general election.

He said the BN would have won at least 149 parliamentary seats if the PBS had not made this unethical move and if the voters in Kelantan had not been misled by certain quarters into wanting a Prime Minister from Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said Pas had also made public its intention to co-operate with the DAP as Pas president Haji Fadzil Noor had said he would co-operate with the sole DAP representative in Kedah, Mr George John, in the State Assembly.

Mr John won the Kota Darulaman State seat in the recent general election.

The Prime Minister said Pas had also deviated from its original struggles and had failed to bring about improvement in any field, including the religious sphere, and the time had come for party members to abandon it.

He said although Pas had pledged to fulfil its promises on religion in Kelantan the party would not carry this out fully and would seek religious quotations in an attempt to cover this failure.

Dr Mahathir said some Pas supporters had already shown their dissatisfaction with their party by joining Umno. For instance, the greatly increased majority obtained by him in the recent election as the BN candidate in Kubang Pasu showed that many Pas members or supporters had voted for the BN.

Dr Mahathir called on Semangat 46 and Pas members to join Umno because their parties could not achieve their targets.