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Mahathir-Pas

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 1. (Bernama) -- The PAS leadership must show sincerity and stop all criticism if the party really wanted to be on good terms with the F\_D\_federal government, Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

He said the party should also not politicise efforts of the Federal government in Kelantan, citing the fertiliser subsidy as one of them.

Among the criticisms made by Pas were that the government could not eradicate poverty because it was God's will and that the national objective of making Malaysia a developed nation by the year 2020 was nonsense, he added.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Finas Merdeka Studio Complex and the 9th Malaysian Film Festival in Hulu Klang, near here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +It has to demonstrate sincerity in the whole context. When, for instance, we want to give development assistance, PAS members in the villages say we have to give, what is there to fear... vote for PAS, as the Federal government has to give one way or the other. It becomes a political issue.+

He added that Pas' action in terminating the services of penghulus made it difficult for the Federal government continue distributing fertiliser to the people in Kelantan. -- more

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Asked about Kelantan Menteri Besar, Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat's wish to return his visit to Kelantan on Thursday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir replied +InshaAllah+ (God Willing).

He was also asked about the ban imposed by PAS on journalists from some newspapers from covering the PAS general assembly, now being held at its headquarters in Taman Melawar, near here.

+That is when they are not in power, just for coverage of the general assembly. If they were to form the Federal government, they will close all newspapers... you will all be out of jobs,+ he said.

Referred to a statement made by Japanese Prime Minister, Toshiki Kaifu, who was said to have rejected the proposal to form the East Asia Economic Grouping (EAEG), he said it was better to talk less on the subject as long as efforts continued to attain its objectives. -- Bernama

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