

# Umno-MCA pact benefits all, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The MCA should ignore criticism that it allegedly failed to champion the Chinese cause.

This is because co-operation between Umno and the MCA had benefited the Chinese community more than the electoral arrangement promoted by the DAP with Pas and Semangat 46 could ever have.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the DAP now felt threatened because the Umno-MCA co-operation had been effective in bringing about the success of the MCA.

Opening the MCA general assembly, he said the Barisan Nasional (BN) strategy of co-operation was better for stability, peace and economic development than the chauvinistic style of the DAP or Pas in fighting for the future of the Chinese or the Malays.

"What more can the DAP offer than the MCA in its co-operation with Semangat 46 and Pas?"

"If the DAP wins, the only thing the Chinese community can get is Lim Kit Siang (DAP secretary-general) as Chief Minister of Penang instead of Dr Koh Tsu Koon

(the present Chief Minister).

"The Prime Minister and Menteri Besar will also be Malays but from Semangat 46 or Pas. There is nothing the DAP can do for the Chinese which cannot be achieved by the MCA and Gerakan.

"The Malaysian Chinese community should be aware of this. Even as an opposition party, there is nothing that the DAP can do for them," Dr Mahathir said.

He also advised the MCA against adopting what he said was the communal style of politics of the DAP in showing it championed the cause of the Chinese.

Dr Mahathir said there were times when the MCA felt threatened by the DAP, so much so that some MCA members tried to be more chauvinistic than the opposition party.

This stand, he said, was against the Barisan Nasional concept, adding that at one stage it almost shattered the Umno-MCA pact which formed the pillar of BN.

However, he said, the MCA leadership had succeeded in checking the DAP style of approach and sentiments.

Describing the DAP strug-

gle as having made a 180-degree turn, Dr Mahathir said the DAP was now not only prepared to co-operate and accept the administration of Semangat 46 if they formed the Government but was also to co-operate with Pas' style of Islamic administration.

He said the DAP did not totally reject the National Development Policy because this would be contrary to the views of Semangat 46 and Pas.

Dr Mahathir said the MCA must maintain its co-operation with Umno and other BN component parties because this would make Malaysia politically more stable and encourage economic growth.

Later, speaking to reporters, he said the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meeting tomorrow would consider the applications from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Sabah, Permas from Sarawak and another Malay-based party in Terengganu to join the BN.

On the amendments to the National Land Code, the Prime Minister said the amendments were aimed at making the legislation clearer to smoothen its administration.