

Dr M: Pas men should not make false allegations

LANGKAWI, Sun. — Pas leaders should stop its speakers at the party's *ceraamah* from hurling abuses and making false allegations against government leaders, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This sort of campaign must stop," Dr Mahathir said, citing the false allegations hurled against him by Pas deputy youth chief Mohamad Sabu.

He added this was just one of the many examples of Pas leaders' misbehaviour. Pas leaders have also appeared to have given the blessing to its speakers to carry on with their disparaging attacks on Government leaders.

He said Pas should also refrain from defending their ill-mannered leaders and members.

Dr Mahathir was asked by reporters to comment on the statement by Pas president Fadzil Noor yesterday that Pas would not defend Moha-

mad if he was found guilty of *khalwat*.

Dr Mahathir was met at the Langkawi International Airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur. He had yesterday broken fast with Langkawi residents at the Al-Aqna mosque in Temoyong here.

Mohamad, who is also Nilam Puri MP, was caught with a 36-year-old housewife in a hotel room in Kota Baru, Kelantan, on Jan 31.

Fadzil had said that Pas would not defend its leaders who had committed offences because the party's struggle superceded individual interests.

Dr Mahathir said Pas should not have defended Mohamad from the beginning.

"When you do something wrong, admit it or at least wait until the court makes a decision and do not interfere with the court.

"But Mohamad's way of campaigning is very bad. He

hurled abuses and made allegations. He alleged that I sold my land to the Government which is not true.

Dr Mahathir also reiterated that religion was not a Pas priority.

He said: "They are merely concerned about their politics and not the politics of Islam.

"Pas politics has nothing to do with Islam. We (the Muslims) are all from an Islamic party. All Muslims sit under the umbrella of an Islamic party."

On the formation of a new party in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said he had not seen details of it.

"I want to see what the party is all about," he added.

In Kota Baru last Friday, Bernama reported that the Registrar of Societies (ROS) had on Thursday approved the registration of Angkatan Keadilan Insan Malaysia (Akim), a new Kelantan-based political party.

It quoted Akim pro tem president Musa Salleh as saying that 25 people, including former Pas leaders, had been appointed to various posts in the party.

Musa, who is the former Pasir Puteh Pas chief, claimed that many Pas members were waiting to join his party.

He stated the party would field candidates in all the 43 State and 14 parliamentary constituencies in Kelantan in the general election.

Musa claimed the party's struggle was based on Islamic justice which Pas had failed to implement.

He had stated they earlier wanted to name the party "Parti Keadilan Islam" (Akim) but had to drop the word "Islam".

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said the BN council meeting on Feb 25 would discuss the party's election preparations and basis of seat distribution.