

PM: Opposition tactics to win votes dangerous

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Opposition's tactics in fanning racial sentiments to gain the people's support could be disastrous.

Referring to the DAP, the Prime Minister said the 1969 incident should be a lesson to the party to stop harping on such issues.

He said the 1969 racial riots were evidence of the party's irresponsible and couldn't-care-less attitude.

"The party has absolutely no consideration for the people. They (party leaders) believe that by fanning the sentiments of the Chinese, the party can win," he said.

This type of leaders do not care about the wellbeing of the people as they are more concerned about winning. Dr Mahathir said when addressing a meet-the-people session at the Bandar Tun Razak's Kompleks Belia Bandaraya hall today. He was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Also present were Selangor Menteri Besar and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional chairman, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Bandar Tun Razak Umno chief Senator Rahim Baba and contenders for the various constituencies in the Federal Territory.

On the other hand, Pas made use of religion to raise Malay sentiments, Dr Mahathir said.

"Its leaders are willing to go to any extent to win. They are willing to cheat, hurling baseless accusations and criticisms against the Government and its leaders although they themselves do not strictly abide by the teachings of Islam."

He said the opposition parties would not be able to work together as they had different and conflicting manifestos.

He added the people should also reject the Opposition because it would be impossible for it to match the BN in contributions and achievements.

Furthermore, he said, the Opposition did not have sufficient candidates to form the Government unlike the BN which had fielded candidates in every constituency

as it aspired to continue contributing to the people and the country.

The Prime Minister also said that in a multiracial country, everyone had a right in the formulation of Government policies.

However, he said if the majority were to grab everything, the voice of the minority would not be heard.

"That is why the Malays are willing to give seats to be contested by MCA, Gerakan and MIC.

"On the other hand, in places where Umno is contesting, the component parties will extend their support."

He cited Bandar Tun Razak which is a Malay majority area but given to MCA to contest, as an example of this co-operation.

He said sometimes sacrifices were made to ensure the success of a team.

Bandar Tun Razak parliamentary constituency, a new area created following

the re-delineation of constituencies, will see a three-cornered fight among Barisan Nasional, DAP and Pas.

BN, which is fielding Tan Chai Ho, 46, a company secretary, will face Lee Yee Lian of DAP and Abd Malek Hussin of Pas.

Malays form 53.6 per cent of the 53,687 electorate in the area (49,863 regular and 3,824 postal voters), while the Chinese, Indians and others account for 38 per cent, six per cent and 2.4 per cent, respectively.