

PM: Opposition co

By Nuraina Samad

PETALING JAYA, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the co-operation among opposition parties in the general election was quite apparent, especially in their fielding of candidates for the April 24-25 polls.

Dr Mahathir said the co-operation was quite obvious even though the Gagasan Rakyat was said to be no more in existence.

He said: "It is quite obvious although I have not done a detailed analysis (of the co-operation)... we can see that the DAP has fielded its candidates with the aim of helping Pas and Pas has fielded its candidates in areas where they cannot possibly win to help the DAP against the MCA or Gerakan."

He was asked by reporters whether he could detect any signs of co-operation among opposition parties after yesterday's nominations. He had earlier addressed a large crowd at a Barisan Nasional "meet-the-people" gathering at the Petaling Jaya Civic Centre here.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, said this co-operation between the two parties was "clear enough" despite their denials, which he said smacked of "hypocrisy".

Asked whether he would liken DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang's challenge against Penang Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon to that of holding the people of Penang to ransom, he said it appeared so.

Kit Siang would try to eliminate anybody who had ability from becoming Chief Minister as he did to Tun Lim Chong Eu in the 1990 general election.

In the last election, Kit Siang stood against Lim in Padang Kota, and won.

Dr Mahathir said Koh was an able leader who had brought progress to Penang. If Koh was defeated, another leader would take over, and Kit Siang's chances of becoming Chief Minister was "almost nil", Dr Mahathir said.

But he added if he did become Chief Minister, Penang would suffer, because the existing good relations



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operating

it had with the Federal Government could "not surely be expected to continue".

"And who pays for all this? It is the people of Penang."

Dr Mahathir said Kit Siang was full of hatred and added that he could be likened to *Robocop* (a movie and television character that is part-man, part-machine who is always with a gun).

"I think they should give him a toy gun... let him shoot with it," he said, referring to DAP posters of Kit Siang with the words "Chief Minister With Power".

Dr Mahathir said Kit Siang's politics of hatred would do no good to the people and country because this would cause disharmony.

"Without harmony there will be no co-operation, no peace. And we cannot attain success."

He added this politics of hatred was "the lowest form of politicking where you appeal to the basest instinct of the people... hatred for other people, for everyone".

"If there is no reason, they will create a reason."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional, unlike the DAP and Pas, was not negative and was always positive in wanting peace and racial harmony in the country.

Asked about the BN's victory of 11 parliamentary and nine State seats uncontested on nomination day, he said this was a "good sign" but the coalition could not afford to be com-

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Don't be duped by the biggest liar, voters advised

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placment and would therefore continue with an active election campaign.

"In 1969, the Alliance won many seats uncontested, but its victory was not that good," he reflected.

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad being challenged by his former political secretary, Mustapa Manap, for the Linggi State seat.

He said Mustapa had chosen to stand against Mohamed Isa because of personal disappointment following his failure to persuade the Menteri Besar to have a district officer transferred.

"People who are disap-

pointed do not have principles. They have no place in politics... in the Barisan. We are in politics not because we want to win, but to serve the people."

Dr Mahathir arrived at the centre with his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, in a maroon Proton Satria which he drove. He was met on arrival by Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib

He was escorted to the centre by youths on motorcycles and was given a grand welcome to the accompaniment of *kompang*, Indian and Chinese drums. A multi-racial mix of women wearing traditional costumes and carrying *bunga manggar* lined the driveway to the entrance of the

centre.

Banners and flags representing the BN parties were seen everywhere as the crowd shouted "Hidup Malaysia" and "Hidup Barisan". Among the crowd were children who waited eagerly, some from as early as 8am, to meet the Prime Minister.

Earlier, speaking to the capacity crowd in the hall, Dr Mahathir said the DAP was not a responsible Opposition. It maintained its extremist stance and never offered any constructive criticisms.

"The DAP is 100 per cent Lim Kit Siang and no one else. He is the absolute power. That's why others left, like Lee Lam Thye."

He said there was no democracy in the party al-

though the party "talks so much about it".

In actuality, the party harped on racial sentiments which could lead to tension and unrest.

Dr Mahathir also described Kit Siang as a self-centred and selfish man who is never grateful to anyone.

"He has created more dissension between Malays and Chinese than anybody else in the country."

He reminded the people that Kit Siang had forced the people of Penang to choose between him and former Penang Chief Minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu, the pioneer of the island's electronics industry.

He said Dr Lim had made immense contributions to the country and had helped

generate jobs for the people in Penang in the electronics industry.

Dr Mahathir hoped the people of Penang would "not give even one vote to the DAP" because everything that was achieved in the island State would be destroyed because Kit Siang was only interested in having control.

"I hope Penang will not be duped by the biggest liar there is."

On the Barisan Nasional, Dr Mahathir said the coalition believed in justice and fairness for all races in which it had proven to have succeeded.

The BN, he added, was a unique party with no equal anywhere in the world as it represented all the ethnic groups in the country.