

Follow true teachings of Islam, Pas told

PENDANG, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Pas members to return to the true teachings of Islam.

He said they should not compromise the misbehaviour of their leaders by using the Quran to achieve their political interests.

"I would like to appeal to all Pas members to return to the true teachings of Islam for the sake of unity," he said at a gathering near Sungai Tiang here.

About 3,000 people attended the gathering.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Othman Abdul.

At the meet Dr Mahathir explained the reason the BN was contesting in the election.

He said the BN's intention was to improve the livelihood of the people and develop the country.

He said Umno, unlike Pas, strived for unity among the Malays and other races.

"We are striving for justice, unlike Pas which strives to create disunity among the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir recalled the history of the formation of Pas in 1955 when the party contested in the first general election and lost.

He said in 1959, the party began to use religion merely to win seats.

"They were successful in Kelantan and Terengganu. However their rule in Kelantan came to an abrupt end after some of its Assemblymen quit the party to join Umno."

Dr Mahathir said Pas has been using Islam and verses from the Quran to gain political mileage.

He said Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat was among Pas leaders who have been abusing the verses of Quran.

He called on them to stop using the Quran to fish for votes.