

# Support BN, Dr M tells S46

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JITRA, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Semangat 46 members to join Umno and vote for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the general election to avoid being cheated for the second time by Pas.

The Prime Minister reminded the Semangat 46 (S46) members of the plot engineered by Pas in 1990 to enable the party (Pas) to wrest power in Kelantan.

He said S46 agreed to a consensus with Pas in Kelantan that the party would support Pas in the contest for the State seats while S46 would contest the parliamentary seats in order to pave the way for S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to become the Prime Minister.

"Therefore, Semangat 46 supported Pas candidates and consequently they did not win a single parliamentary seat outside Kelantan.

"What happened to Ku Li (Tengku Razaleigh)? Datuk Nik Aziz (Nik Mat) became the Kelantan Menteri Besar and Ku Li did not hold any position except as the Gua Musang MP.

"Now in Kelantan, if Ku Li wants to meet YAB Datuk Nik Aziz, he has to fix an appointment.

"He has to ask for permission to seek an audience with Datuk Nik Aziz. This is far away from his dream of becoming a Prime Minister. Ku Li stepped further down the ranks," he said at the leader-with-the-people gathering at Dewan Jitra here.

About 5,000 people attended the gathering. Also pre-

sent were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and Barisan Nasional candidate for the Tunjang State seat Barishah Saad.

Dr Mahathir also recalled how greedy Tengku Razaleigh was to become a Prime Minister.

He said when Tengku Razaleigh decided to contest against Tan Sri Musa Hitam for the Umno deputy president's post, he had advised the former not to do so.

"But when he lost, I retained him as a Minister," he added.

Dr Mahathir also recalled the 1987 incident when Tengku Razaleigh contested against him for the Umno president's post to fulfil his (Tengku Razaleigh) desire to be the Prime Minister and the day Tengku Razaleigh took court action which resulted in Umno being declared unlawful.

Dr Mahathir urged the S46 members to learn the lesson from the 1990 election.

"They have been made a tool by Pas and that's why Pas won in 1990. This time around, the same thing will happen and Pas will not support Semangat 46 candidates in the election.

"Therefore they should join Umno and vote for the Barisan Nasional," he added.

Dr Mahathir also criticised Pas for using Islam to achieve political gains.

He said while Islam called upon its followers to unite, Pas went against the Islamic teaching by disuniting the Muslims.

Dr Mahathir also criticised Nik Aziz, whom he described as arrogant and boastful.

He said before Nik Aziz was the Menteri Besar, he had some respect for him

because Nik Aziz was soft spoken and showed some pleasant character.

"But when he became the Menteri Besar and started sending circulars asking others to address him as *tok guru* and referred to himself as an *ulamak*, he began to change.

"He is also putting himself the same level as Prophet Muhammad when he likened some religious Umno candidates who are standing against Pas candidates to that of 'Ustaz Yahudi and Nasrani' who opposed the Prophet," he added.

Dr Mahathir also criti-

cised Nik Aziz for defending former Pas Youth deputy chief Mohamad Sabu who was caught for allegedly committing *khalwat* with a housewife.

The Prime Minister said Pas also failed to fulfil its promises to the Kelantan people to build a university whereas the Government had successfully implemented the Islamic banking and pawn-broking system and the International Islamic University.

Dr Mahathir also called on BN supporters to vote for any BN candidate fielded in the general election irre-

spective of his race.

He said this was the BN form of co-operation, in which its supporters would help one another by throwing the support to the party's candidate as long as he or she was from the coalition.

The Prime Minister said the BN's form of co-operation had helped unite the party and made it stronger.

"If the BN fields a Malay candidate, the other races will fully back him.

"This is also the case when a non-Malay candidate is fielded. The Malays will also fully back him," he

said, adding that in his case, the minority non-Malay population, including Malaysian Thais, in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency had voted him for five consecutive terms since 1974.

The Prime Minister thanked the people of Kubang Pasu for their continuous support for him over the past 21 years.

"In Kubang Pasu, the BN candidates are all from Umno. We are contesting here with the hope that Malays as well as non-Malays will play a decisive role in the general election.

# members

"They must be decisive because in certain areas where there are more Chinese voters and the candidates are Chinese from opposing parties, the Chinese voters would be divided in their choice.

"In such cases, the minority races' vote could decide which candidate will win," he said.

He said such a case applied to Kubang Pasu, where all the candidates, from the BN, Parti Semangat Melayu 46 and Pas were Malays.

"The Chinese could decide which candidate will win and give him or her a big victory," he said.

Dr Mahathir added the situation was also the same in areas where the MCA and DAP were contesting.

"The Chinese electorate will be undecided. As such, the Malay and Indian voters will decide if the MCA candidate wins or lose.

"That is why when the Chinese electorate votes for an Umno candidate, Umno will reciprocate and give their support to candidates from the MCA, Gerakan or MIC," he said.

He cited two places, Bandar Tun Razak in Kuala Lumpur and Tawau in Sabah, where despite having majority Malay voters the BN was fielding Chinese candidates.

"I have just returned from campaigning in the two places. Malays form the majority of the voters there but the BN is fielding Chinese candidates.

"In both places, Umno has promised to support the BN's Chinese candidates. As such, Malays in the two areas will decide whether the candidates win or lose," he said.

The Prime Minister also said DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang was so greedy

and desperate for power that he was willing to ignore the laws of the country.

"He had shown disrespect to the police when the authorities refused him permission to use the Padang Kota in Penang recently.

"He thinks he is powerful that he even refused to pay toll for using the North-South Highway.

"I am the Prime Minister and with powers but I never abused them. When I was on my own using the highway, I still pay the toll," he said, adding that he shuddered to think what Lim would do if he became Chief Minister of Penang.

Later, when visiting the BN operations centres near here, the Prime Minister, when asked whether the BN would file a protest over the disqualification of its candidate in the recent nomination, said if the party had grounds then it would file a protest after the election.

Asked whether it was fair for the candidate's nomination to be rejected on a technicality without giving a chance for the constituents to elect their representatives, Dr Mahathir said:

"Well, we have tried our best. Previously the nomination form consisted of four pages. We asked all sorts of details and that caused many seats to be won uncontested.

"We have simplified the forms to one page and there's no reason for them to make mistakes. That's their problem because we have tried to minimise the complications to avoid the nominations from being rejected," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government preferred a contest to allow the voters to decide instead of winning the seats uncontested.