

Dr M on actions that eroded family system

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Pas' actions in last month's general election which eroded the Islamic family system was contrary to Islam and the political practice in a democratic system.

Expressing disappointment, the Prime Minister said the system of party politics permitted political differences but not in terms of personal life.

"Causing the husband and wife to divorce because the wife did not vote for Pas has nothing to do with Islam whatsoever. This is not a good deed and it can result in deviation from the Islamic belief and faith," he said.

He was commenting on newspaper reports about Pas' "political *fatwa* (ruling)" said to be the cause of the erosion of the Islamic family system.

According to the news reports, two divorce cases were reported in Bachok, Kelantan, because the husband and wife voted for different political parties in the April 25 general election.

Speaking to reporters after opening the party's 49th anniversary celebrations at the Putra World Trade Centre here, Dr Mahathir said Pas' actions which, among other things, caused the divorce and split among the kampung folk who held different political leanings was a tactic aimed at preserving support for the party.

The Prime Minister said: "What we want to know from Pas is whether they agree that those who did not vote for the party are infidels... whether Umno members are infidels.

"If they say they agree that Umno members are not infidels, we will like to know whether they are willing to voice this in a manner which can be heard by all Pas members."

He said Umno wanted to list out all Pas deviations and wished to know what its (Pas') stand was.

Dr Mahathir added if the party wanted to have discussions they must come with an open mind and not with political goals.

"We have to list out their actions and ways which are contrary to Islamic teachings."

For instance, he said, Pas forced their followers to take an oath to support the party and told them that if they voted for the party, they would be assured of a