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Dr M: Pas has lied to the people about setting up an Islamic state

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KOTA BARU, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas has lied to the people that it will establish an Islamic state when it knows fully well it cannot do so.

Pas, he said today, would need to control over two-thirds of parliamentary seats to amend the Constitution, but it has never fielded enough candidates to secure two-thirds of the Dewan Rakyat.

"You must also win big, by two-thirds, to amend the Constitution but this has never stopped them from lying to the people," he said, adding that Pas was a "party of liars".

He was speaking to more than 3,000 people at Tendong in Pasir Mas where he laid the foundation stone for Kelantan's third bridge and flood alleviation scheme, as well as the Kelantan Islamic Economic Centre.

Pas, he said, was co-operating with its foe, the DAP, because it wanted to form the Government. To amend the Constitution, it must get support from the DAP and Keadilan.

He said Pas knew the DAP would not support this, and therefore it would not get the two-thirds majority. But this does not stop it from promising to set up an Islamic state, when it campaigns in Kedah, Terengganu and other places.

"When they see (DAP leader Lim) Kit Siang, they say there is no need for an Islamic state. They are prepared to tear up their own constitution just to get votes from Kit Siang, whom they are also willing to accept as Prime Minister," he said.

Pas, he said, was unscrupulous and did not care for anything at all as long as it got votes.

In Kuala Terengganu earlier, Dr Mahathir said Pas leaders were dishonest and would go to any extreme to mislead the people in order to win votes.

He said Pas did not fear anyone or anything, including Allah, as they had no qualms about destroying marriages because of different political beliefs, causing disunity among Muslims and teaching its followers to be ingrates.

"These are all against Islamic teachings. They also lie to the people openly. For example, they talk about implementing hudud laws when they know they cannot, and at the same time promise the DAP that they will not introduce hudud or establish an Islamic state," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony for the expansion of the Sultan Mahmud Airport.

He urged Muslims, including Pas members "to open their hearts". "Don't shut your ears and eyes completely to explanations based on truth. We will not say anything that is not right."

Asked if any action would be taken against Pas since its actions had affected the faith of Muslims, Dr Mahathir said the matter would have to be studied.

On the use of the word "Islam" in Pas's name, Dr Mahathir said it was gravely misused, and because of the word "Islam", the public believed that Pas was a true Islamic party. "But Islam to Pas is only a mask. We will see if such lies should be allowed or not. But if the faith of Muslims is affected, we must give serious attention to the use of the word "Islam" (by a political party)."

On the alleged financial support received by the Opposition from several foreign countries, Dr Mahathir said he read in the newspapers and heard

about the acknowledgement of foreign support from Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and DAP deputy president Karpal Singh when they spoke in Jelutong.

He said the Opposition seemed proud to have the support of foreigners, which he described as "shameful".

He said if the opposition front formed the Government it would become the puppet of these foreigners, making the country no longer independent.

Asked if he was confident the Barisan Nasional in Terengganu would maintain its two-thirds majority, Dr Mahathir said the BN would get more than the two-thirds majority because the silent majority had pledged its support.

He said the silent majority was concerned with the Pas proposal to establish an Islamic state and implement hudud laws, and the DAP's intention to abolish the special privileges given to the Malays.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said he was still waiting for Keadilan Youth chief Mohd Ezam Mohd Noor to disclose the contents of the six boxes which he had promised to do when Parliament was dissolved.

"So far, there is none. But the letters which have been made public so far were created with malicious intent.

They want to create hatred among the people so that they will not vote for the BN. Believe me, they will create more lies as polling day draws near," he added.

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