

26/10/1999

`Opposition parties offering nothing new in manifesto'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu described the Barisan Alternatif manifesto launched yesterday as "nothing new".

"Many of the things stated in the manifesto have been done by the Barisan Nasional all these years.

"I think there is nothing new.

"When the right time comes, the BN will reveal its manifesto and it will be very different from the traditional manifesto that has been declared by the Opposition," said Samy Vellu.

He was speaking to reporters after launching a new engineering product called HDB-A Punching Shear Reinforcement by Halfen Sdn Bhd today.

Samy Vellu said the BN manifesto would focus on bringing Malaysians into the next millennium like changing their standard of living.

"And BN will provide a better leadership under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. That will be our selling point.

"Over the last 16 or 17 years, Dr Mahathir has brought about a lot of changes in this country and I don't see anything of that kind in the Opposition's manifesto," said Samy Vellu.

Asked when the BN manifesto will be revealed, Samy Vellu said it was up to the Prime Minister.

Acting Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said Umno Youth and the BN felt the Opposition's manifesto was weird.

"Looking at the manifesto, it is clear that it does not contain anything new or attractive.

"Their stand is also inconsistent and the understanding between the Opposition parties is merely to get votes for the general election," he said.

Yesterday, Parti Keadilan Nasional deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said it agreed with the manifesto's contents.

Hishammuddin added that when party ideologies clashed, he could not see how the various parties could work together without jeopardising each other's mission.

In Alor Star, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said the Opposition's manifesto proved that Pas influence in the coalition was weak.

He said although Pas claimed to be struggling for the formation of an Islamic nation, the party was forced to compromise with the demands of other parties within the coalition, especially the DAP.

"This also shows that the Opposition Front is being led by DAP and not Pas. We know that DAP objects to the creation of an Islamic nation which Pas claims it is struggling for," he said.

(END)