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Mahathir-PAS

PAS THREATENS MUSLIMS TO GARNER SUPPORT: SAYS MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS is using threats to garner support and fish for votes in the general election.

He said the party was scaring the Muslim community by using threats and boycotting religious functions held by those who did not join or support PAS.

"PAS is not interested in the welfare of the Malays, they are only interested in the (people's) votes," he said at a gathering of the leader with the people in Naka, near here tonight.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said PAS was not like the other political parties in the democratic system because it isolated its members completely from members of other parties.

As an example, PAS isolated itself from Umno even to the extent that prayers and the deaths of their members were being handled separately.

Dr Mahathir said PAS used the scare tactics on people who supported the Barisan Nasional (BN) so that they would vote for the party (PAS).

The Prime Minister said PAS tried to incite Umno and BN supporters purely to get their votes.

"PAS said Umno is not fully Islamic, I want to know who gave them the right to say such a thing," he said.

PAS resorted to such a tactic aimed at separating the Umno people from PAS supporters for political gain, Dr Mahathir said.

He said actually in terms of politics, PAS and Umno differed but in terms of religion, supporters of both parties were Muslims and as such they should cooperate and not break up.

The Prime Minister said there were people who had sympathy for Umno but because they were scared of the PAS threats, they only gave their support from a distance.

PAS rejected Islamic teachings, and rejected Islamic brotherhood to the extent that they were willing to work together with the Satan, he said.

"If PAS gets the people's support in the general election, the Muslims will be further divided," Dr Mahathir said.

He said Umno was an Islamic party but it need not use the name "Islam" to project its Islamic image.

The Prime Minister also said that PAS was using Islam for political gain, citing the case of Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who initially refused to use the Mercedes Benz car and stay in his official residence in Kota Baharu but later felt it was "nice" and continued to use both facilities until today.

-- BERNAMA

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