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PM: Pas only a seasonal party

BANDAR BARU SERTING (Jempol), Fri. - Describing Pas as a seasonal party, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said its "vision" is nothing but to fish votes to win the coming general election.

The Prime Minister said today the party claimed to be preaching the true teachings of Islam, but was prepared to go to the extent of splitting unity among the people in its quest for support.

"Their vision is to influence our children studying in kindergartens, schools and universities."

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and Barisan Nasional chairman, said the Opposition would continue to weaken the BN Government and leaders by running them down for its own political benefit.

He was on a two-day visit to meet BN leaders, government employees and the people. He arrived yesterday, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. He has been to Penang, Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu, Perak, Sarawak and Malacca as part of a nationwide tour.

Addressing a large crowd at the opening ceremony of the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Felda Bandar Baru Serting, he said some Pas leaders were hypocrites as they did not practise what they preached.

"For instance, they ask others to send their children to public religious schools, but they themselves send their children to government schools," he said.

Judging from their actions and statements, he said, Pas was "not an Islamic party" but one which was merely using religion to achieve its political goals.

Dr Mahathir also spoke on the country's political history, saying that the Malays were united before Pas was formed (just before Independence).

However, after its existence, the Malays were divided.

"I am not angry with Pas members and supporters. I actually want them to return to the true teachings of Islam and support those who really preach the religion," he said.

He said he was aware that true preachers could still be found among those who operated religious schools and were not alligned to any political party.

The Prime Minister said he was confident that the people would retain the BN Government.

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