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PM: A Pas attempt to frustrate Umno

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Pas' decision to contest in Sabah was a ploy to see Umno defeated.

He said the party had never won any seat in elections in the State, and yet it had fielded candidates in the March 12-13 polls.

"They are doing that to attract the votes of the Muslims so that Umno will lose and PBS (Parti Bersatu Sabah) wins," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the keen fight in the Sabah State election which will see a record 199 candidates vying for the 48 seats in the State Legislative Assembly.

He was speaking at a Press conference at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang on his return from Dhaka, Bangladesh where he attended the Second Development Eight (D8) summit.

Dr Mahathir said as a country which practised democracy, everyone was entitled to contest whenever elections were held.

"From the number of candidates, it can be said that there is keen contest but those who have no chance of winning are also contesting," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "I dare say that Pas is contesting to help the PBS. This is Pas' style ... they talk about Islam but at the same time, they are trying to make sure that Muslims (candidates) lose."

He said the DAP was realistic of its chances in Sabah, and had decided to stay away from the election.

Despite Pas' tactics, Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said BN was confident of winning.

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