

Opposition tactics will weaken Malays: Dr M

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Their ultimate objective is to free Anwar, says Prime Minister

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: The Opposition's tactic in the Lunas by-election will only weaken the Malays and make the non-Malays reject the Alternative Front.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the ultimate objective of Parti Keadilan Nasional is none other than to release Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from jail.


"I have said from the beginning that the Opposition will use the issue of race and religion in this by-election.

"Their intention, I think, is to weaken the Malays," he said after launching a national seminar on Islamic Development and the Threat of Deviationist Teachings at the Malaysian International Exhibition and Showroom (Mines), near here.

"This is because such an approach will definitely make the Hindus and Buddhists reject them but this is okay for them ... let whatever happen as long as the Malays are disunited."

Mahathir was commenting on the issue of "mosque or temple" which is being played up by the Opposition to gain support in the by-election.


He said although the Malays are not the majority there as they only constitute about 40% of the




BATTLE FOR LUNAS

- Nomination: **Nov 21**
- Polling: **Nov 29**
- Population: **40,000 est.**


- No. of voters: **26,746**
- Malays: **11,581 (43%)**
- Chinese: **9,896 (37%)**
- Indians: **5,108 (19%)**
- Others: **161 (0.5%)**



BARISAN NASIONAL
S. Anthony Samy



KEADILAN
Saifuddin Nasution Ismail



INDEPENDENT
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people, the Opposition wants to disunite the Malays in order to weaken Umno.

"Following that, they will get their ultimate objective, which is solely to release Datuk Seri Anwar," he said.

"There is no other motive, they do not care what will happen to the Malays or Muslims, or even the multi-racial community in Malaysia."

Asked whether they will be able to influence the voters, Ma-

hathir said some may be influenced, like in the case of the recent Teluk Kemang by-election.

"The Malays may feel it has been so long since we have a Malay assemblyman ... this has been played up by Keadilan which still has this sentiment, as most of them are former Umno members," he said.

Mahathir said the original intention of the Opposition in forming a coalition was to cheat one another but, eventually it was PAS which benefited the most, while Keadilan became the loser.

He said that although the situation may seem to be an advantage to Barisan Nasional (BN), the ruling party does not depend on this as it wants voters to value its services to the people in developing and maintaining peace in the country.

He said those who are grateful will support the BN but the Opposition is trying to gain support by teaching people to hate the government and its leaders.

"They don't attract supporters by proving their capabilities and contributions to the society and the country," he said.

Mahathir said all the opposition parties are racist and their coalition is temporary as it does not have solid ground.