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PM: Keadilan aims to split the Malays

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LANGKAWI, Tues. - Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Parti Keadilan Nasional's intention of contesting in the Lunas State by-election was merely to widen the split among Malays.

Knowing fully well that the party had no chance of winning the seat, he said, "Keadilan has the intention of dividing the Malays."

Dr Mahathir, however, said Keadilan may succeed in reducing BN's majority in the by-election as seen at the Teluk Kemang Parliamentary by-election because the party was expected to fan racial sentiments to win votes.

"I am certain Keadilan will use racial issues and that's why they succeeded in convincing the DAP to withdraw their candidate for the Lunas seat," he said at the end of the Global 2000-Langkawi International Dialogue when asked to comment on the by-election which would be held on Nov 29.

Despite the fact that more than 50 per cent of Lunas voters are non-Malays, the DAP was yet not given the seat by the Opposition.

Dr Mahathir said the latest development in the Opposition would affect the DAP.

He said the DAP would have to be content with contesting less seats in the coming general election.

Dr Mahathir said the recent development in the opposition would benefit Pas and Keadilan, and not the DAP.

"DAP will be sidelined while Keadilan has no intention of winning... its aim is just to split the Malays," he said.

Asked whether the DAP would decide to withdraw its co-operation from Pas and Keadilan, Dr Mahathir said the DAP would be destroyed if it decided to sever its ties with the other opposition parties in the current coalition.

"It will on its own ...actually DAP has been trapped by Pas and Keadilan," said the Prime Minister.

"Keadilan is the catalyst (of the downfall of DAP) and Pas will be the beneficiary."

Dr Mahathir said the Malays in Lunas could decide the outcome of the Lunas by-election.

"The Malays in Lunas will lose if they are divided," he said.

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