

PAS and DAP are incompatible

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It's only a matter of time before there is a falling out, says Dr M

By V. Gayathry

SHAH ALAM, Sat: PAS and DAP are incompatible partners in the Opposition coalition and their irreconcilable differences will only lead them to abandon their relationship, the prime minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described the two as being in a "partnership between thieves, and sooner or later they will run".

Mahathir was speaking to reporters after opening the 10th Selangor Umno Convention here.

The two parties have been embroiled in a series of disputes over the Islamic state issue, which DAP accuses PAS of pursuing despite working together in the coalition.

While DAP says it will stick by its principles in support of a secular state, PAS has pointed out that its agenda has been consistent and its coalition partners are aware of it.

To another question, Mahathir said if it is true that the Barisan Nasional is manipulating the issue, then the two parties should not bother about it.

"They can say what they like . . . since it is manipulated by the Barisan Nasional, then don't bother about it, let it go.

"DAP should allow PAS to establish an Islamic state in which they will abolish all civil courts.

"Then they can try Lim Kit Siang (DAP chairman) in the syariah court," he added.

On belief that a demonstration will be held to coincide with his visit to Universiti Malaya tomorrow, Mahathir said he will still attend the symposium on Reaffirming the Direction of Graduates in the New Millennium.

"The institution belongs to everyone, not just them. I also have rights there," he said.

On another issue, Mahathir said Malaysia supported the reappointment of Kofi Annan as the United Nations secretary-general.

Asked if Annan has performed his duties well, Mahathir said the secretary-general was still bound by the decisions taken by the Security Council and the most powerful nations.