

PAS making use of its partners: Mahathir

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS is using the DAP and Keadilan for its own gain under the pretext of the Alternative Front coalition as it realises the effectiveness of the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition through the cooperation of its 13 component parties.

Mahathir said in an attempt to copy the BN way, the opposition parties struggled to "hug" each other, pretending to be friends when in reality they are close enemies.

"They never have a common objective but they realise that as long as they don't cooperate, they will never be able to defeat BN. They don't have good intentions other than wanting to cheat each other.

"PAS claimed in Bahasa Melayu and Jawi that it will set up an Islamic country. However, in an interview conducted in English, (PAS deputy president) Hadi Awang said it was impossible to set up an Islamic country such as in Iran or Afghanistan as Malaysia is a multi-

racial country," he said.

Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, said while the opposition parties, through their own coalition, are willing to lie, there are people who were willing to be cheated as could be seen through the cooperation between PAS, DAP and Keadilan, where PAS is using its two partners.

"I am very sad for Keadilan. The world thinks that Keadilan is the party that will replace Umno.

"This is a dream ... dreaming in the daytime. What actually happens is that DAP and PAS are using Keadilan to obtain support from certain groups for their parties and today we can see how successful these two parties are."

Mahathir said the DAP is also being used by PAS when the latter managed to "*kudakan*" (ride on) DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang.

"Although they hug Kit Siang from the front, they actually ride on Kit Siang's back. Kit Siang and the DAP did not realise that when they

cooperate with PAS, the Chinese community will reject them.

"Never in the history of the DAP have their top leaders lost in an election but in the 1999 election, Kit Siang and Karpal Singh lost. And now, we see a change in the seat of the Opposition leader to PAS president (Datuk) Fadzil Noor.

"I believe that the DAP's lifespan is now over. Goodbye DAP."

Mahathir said PAS is only interested in the Chinese votes and the party is willing to entertain any demands although this is against the party's struggle, just like when PAS was in BN and they used the opportunity to expand their party by enticing the Malays in Umno, especially in Felda, to join PAS and reject Umno.

"This happened for a few years and we were forced to expel PAS from BN as they were not sincere at all."

Mahathir said the BN coalition is unique and cannot be found elsewhere in the world.