

Opposition an 'imitation front'

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday labelled the opposition front as an "imitation front" saying they were only interested in making use of each other.

The Barisan Nasional chairman said the opposition parties acknowledged the success of Barisan's racial co-operation and tried to set up a similar coalition.

"Their's will never be the

same as Barisan as their's is an imitation and lacks quality. Although they claim to be working together, each party is only interested in making use of the others," he said when opening the one-day Barisan convention.

He said this was why PAS wrote about its objective of setting up an Islamic state in Bahasa Malaysia and Jawi to attract Malay support while

telling the Chinese that it would not set up such a state in the likes of Iran or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

In Barisan, Dr Mahathir said that even the smallest party had equal rights and all the plans it implemented were done based on the reality of the multi-racial society.

He said the party to be pitied most in this imitation coalition was Parti Keadilan Na-

sional as it ended up being used by both PAS and DAP.

"In fact, Keadilan is dreaming in the daytime because although many foreigners thought the party was going to be Umno's successor, it is better off being part of PAS rather than remaining an independent party," he said.

Even the DAP's days, he said, were numbered and soon Malaysians could bid the par-

ty goodbye as it was losing support from the Chinese community following efforts by PAS to court the Chinese through lies.

PAS, he said, would do anything to be remain a dominant party in this imitation Barisan.

This, he said, was proven in the last general election when the DAP suffered its most major loss ever and its national chairman Lim Kit Siang and

deputy chairman Karpal Singh lost their respective seats.

"What actually happened then was PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor hugged Kit Siang from the front when in fact he was using him (Lim).

"So, I am confident that by 2004, we can say goodbye to this imitation Barisan which is not based on actual co-operation but political expediency," he added.