

PM: Umno ready to talk with Pas

Nst 27 JUL 2001

KULIM, Thurs. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the party remained committed to its proposal to hold Malay unity talks with Pas.

“We are always ready to sit down and talk with Pas,” he said.

However, Pas has no interest in the talks, the Prime Minister said when asked on the progress of the proposed unity talks today.

“Pas is not interested to meet Umno... just keen to meet with the DAP,” he added.

Dr Mahathir was here to open the RM5.5 billion Silera Malaysia Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication

plant at the Kulim High Technology Park.

Also present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Silera Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Mohd Sherrif Kassim and its president and chief executive officer Cyril F. Hannon.

Asked if Pas had taken up his challenge to put in writing its proposals of an Islamic State, Dr Mahathir said the Opposition party had yet to do so.

“Pas claimed Umno is against the setting up of an Islamic State.

“We want to know what is the Islamic State that it is proposing, but Pas has refused to tell us. So, how can we be for or against something that we do not know about?”

Pas is just lying to the Chinese and the Malays, he said.

“They tell the Chinese it is okay... just relax; and then they tell the Malays that it would be strict in some States. This is not right... there is no sincerity.”

On the DAP's threat to leave the opposition pact, Dr Mahathir said: “I don't know... It is sometimes a *sandiwara* (performance).”