

25 JAN 2001

Mahathir-Opposition

OPPOSITION PACT INSINCERE, SAYS DR M

ALOR SETAR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reiterated that the people should not be influenced by the pact formed by opposition parties as their struggles were not sincere.

He said the Barisan Nasional (BN) was the creator of the inter-party coalition in the country comprising 14 component parties representing the various races.

It was the BN that pioneered the inter-racial cooperation and understanding but the opposition parties copied it, thinking that through such a pact, they could woo votes from the people, he said.

"The opposition pact is insincere. They merely formed the pact for self-interest and to get votes," he said when speaking at a joint Aidilfitri and Chinese New Year dinner organised by the Kedah BN here.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and State BN leaders attended the function.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said although the opposition copied the BN but their pact was totally different from the ruling coalition.

He said the BN struggled for the interests of all races and strived to turn Malaysia into a developed and peaceful nation unlike the opposition which merely looked after the benefits of their respective parties.

"That's why we can rule this country since Independence till now," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, urged party members to remain united and give undivided support to their leaders.

-- BERNAMA

MZM TS