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Mahathir-PAS

PAS' OBSTINACY A LOSS TO MALAYS- DR MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, May 20 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said today the obstinate attitude being adopted by PAS on the question of Malay unity is not only a loss to the Malays but also to Bumiputeras as a whole.

Commending the Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) for dissolving itself in the interest of unity, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the effort to unite the Malays could not see fruition in view of PAS' reluctance to hold discussions with Umno.

"They are reluctant to join any discussion on Malay unity even though our aim is not to see it dissolve and join Umno or for PAS to join the Barisan Nasional," he told the Akar special assembly here.

The assembly resolved to dissolve the party and for its members to join Umno en bloc.

"PAS is not like Akar which is willing to sacrifice," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno had proved its earnest desire to strengthen Malay unity such as by accepting once more former members of the Semangat 46, a splinter party of Umno.

Moreover a former leader of the party was now a member of the Federal Cabinet.

"PAS is an Umno splinter party. In the beginning PAS did not exist, they are not even aware of the struggle of the Malays against the Malayan Union," he said.

At a news conference later, the Prime Minister was asked if he had any plans for Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, considering that there was a former Semangat 46 leader in the Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir said, "He is already in Umno and in BN...whatever happens to him is a question of process. Some of the leaders like Datuk Rais Yatim are already in the Government.... but it does not mean a leader of a party who joins Umno and the BN must suddenly be given some post."

-- BERNAMA

JS HAK AAM