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Mahathir-PAS

PAS AFRAID OF LOSING DAP SUPPORT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- PAS has yet to make the Malay unity talks with Umno a reality as it was afraid of losing the DAP's support, said Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said PAS was willing to reach a compromise with the DAP in order to gain its (DAP's) support by sidelining the special rights of the Malays.

"PAS is afraid that if the Malay unity talks is made its priority, the Chinese will not support them. That is why they wanted to discuss national unity, to make it look as though they had been talking about unity among the races from the beginning," he said at a function to commemorate Umno's struggles and a meeting with Umno veterans here today.

Dr Mahathir said PAS, which previously "loathed" the Chinese and Indians, now wished to portray itself as a champion of the Chinese.

"All because they wanted the support of the Chinese and Indians, for only then can they defeat the Malays in Umno," he said.

Dr Mahathir said in gaining independence, the non-bumiputeras had accepted four points concerning Malay interests -- the special privileges and position of the Malays, the Malay language, Islam and the Malay rulers.

He said Umno had never and will never pawn away the rights of the Malays just to gain support and that PAS, if it wanted to defend the Malays and Islam, must not be afraid of losing the support of the DAP.

"We will not sacrifice our rights in order to obtain the support of others," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno wished to discuss Malay unity with PAS but the opposition party has been stalling so far.

"They gave all sorts of excuses and they can't be bothered that the Malays are under threat," he said.

He added that only Umno, as proven all along, could protect the Malays and their rights.

-- BERNAMA

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