

# Pas tactics horrendous, says PM

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**ALOR STAR, Sun.** — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was horrendous of Pas to distribute posters depicting him as a Catholic priest.

The posters bore an image of Dr Mahathir clad in a robe and wearing a cross, and the words "*Mahathir Paderi Besar Gereja*" and "*Rahsia Besar Di Sebalik Mengadap Pope Di Rom dan Cuti Di Itali*" ("Mahathir the Chief Priest" and "The Big Secret Behind his Meeting With the Pope in Rome and his holiday in Italy").

There were also posters of Dr Mahathir and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi with the words "*Mahathir Nyanyuk Pak Lah Merapu*" ("Mahathir is Senile and Pak Lah is Gibberish") and "*Sorang Nak Jadi Tuhan, Yang Satu Lagi Bercita-cita Diangkat Jadi Nabi ...Haprah*" ("One Wants to be God, The Other has Ambitions to be made a Prophet ...Useless").

Another was a poster of Abdullah scooping meat from a roasted pig with the caption "*Penjual Babi Tak Layak Jadi PM — Mahathir Silap Pilih Penggantinya*" ("A Pork Seller is Not Fit To Be PM — Mahathir Has Chosen a Wrong Successor").

Neither was Puteri Umno spared, with flyers accusing the movement of being agents for the Jews and its protem chief Azalina Othman of being a Christian.

Dr Mahathir said he had heard about the matter and did not think it was appropriate for the Opposition to resort to such tactics.

"They go around claiming to be an Islamic party, but yet resort to slandering others.

"Slandering others is strictly forbidden by Islam and is regarded as more terrible than murder," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when shown the posters by reporters during a Press conference at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Baru, near here.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi and other BN leaders.

Dr Mahathir said it was up to the

people whether to believe the Opposition's accusations and personal attacks against him.

"They (Opposition) lie all the time."

Dr Mahathir said he was baffled why Pas claimed the Government did not heed the Opposition's advice on many issues.

He said the Government was always willing to accept good advice but the Opposition had failed to give any.

On reports of violence during campaigning in Anak Bukit and Pendang, he said Pas had always been associated with thuggery and rowdy behaviour. He said this rowdy behaviour was seen during the Lunas by-election in November 2000.

"They think they can do whatever they want. The country will face problems if people like this come to power."

Dr Mahathir said the police would be on hand to ensure a peaceful by-election and the authorities would be impartial in discharging their duties.

"If the police are seen to be acting against the Opposition, it is because they (Opposition) are the ones who create problems," said Dr Mahathir.

He said the BN stood a good chance of winning both seats but called on party workers to continue working hard.

Asked why the BN opted to field candidates who had contested and lost in the last general election, he said they were chosen because they were capable of winning.

"It is not like there is a ruling that prohibits people who have lost from contesting again.

"I too lost in 1969 but won in subsequent elections."