

22 JAN 2002

Mahathir-PAS

PAS HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR KEADILAN LEADERS, SAYS MAHATHIR

BANGI, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PAS does not have any sympathy for the leaders of Parti Keadilan Nasional and is merely using the party.

"We know that they don't have any sympathy for the leaders of Keadilan," said the prime minister.

"Previously, when Datuk Seri Anwar (Ibrahim) was in Umno, the PAS people were the first to accuse him of being involved in immoral activities.

"But when they saw that they could make use of him, they did so," he told a press conference after opening Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's annual career day at its main campus.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the admission by PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, reported in today's newspapers, that PAS did make use of Keadilan to achieve its political goals.

Nik Aziz, however, went on to say that Keadilan had also made use of PAS and that Barisan Nasional component parties too often made use of one another to achieve their political objectives.

"Umno uses MCA and MIC, and we too are good at using other parties. PAS uses Keadilan...Keadilan uses PAS. The Islamic concept does not prohibit us from joining forces with others," he was reported as saying.

Nik Aziz was responding to Dr Mahathir's statement on Sunday that PAS had been making use of Keadilan to win seats in elections but there were signs that Keadilan no longer had much support and could not be made use of anymore.

According to Dr Mahathir, it was PAS that had benefited from the setting up of Keadilan by winning more seats and taking over the parliamentary opposition leader's post from the DAP.

Asked today if Nik Aziz's admission would serve as another reminder to Keadilan members to be aware of the situation, Dr Mahathir said: "Those who realise it will know it, but those who do not wish to take note will not want to know it."

-- BERNAMA

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