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Mahathir-PAS

PAS USED ITS TIME IN BN TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR ITSELF

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that PAS' participation in the Barisan Nasional (BN) sometime ago was merely to further its own political interests and not to help other component parties to get support from the people.

"Other parties which join BN subscribe to the BN spirit of helping each other. Unfortunately, when PAS was in the BN it used the opportunity for PAS only," he told reporters after opening the Federal Territory BN convention here.

The Prime Minister said when a PAS leader was appointed Land and Mines Minister, that person used the opportunity to instigate Felda settlers by saying that BN was not an Islamic party and that they should support PAS which was Islamic.

"...we found that Felda which was previously 100 percent behind the government suddenly opposed the government because when PAS was in the BN it said that BN is un-Islamic and that they should support PAS because PAS is an Islamic party," he said.

He said it was strange that settlers were the ones who opposed the government the most when they had benefited a lot from the BN government's administration.

"...on the other hand, those who did not get a chance to become settlers continue to support the government, very strange," he said.

He said because of this PAS had to leave the coalition.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir said BN had accepted the participation of PAS and also other parties including Gerakan to reduce political polemics and to concentrate on economic and social development.

He said that in the early stages of the formation of the Alliance and subsequently BN, all component parties had different beliefs but worked together on the basis of "you help me, I help you".

However, with the passage of time, cooperation was stepped up and relations between members of component parties became closer, he said.

He said this was evident from the fact that BN meetings and conventions were frequently held nowadays compared to previously when they only met before elections to work out seat allocations for the component parties.

-- BERNAMA

NM WNZ AHH YBY