

13 JAN 2003

Mustapa-PAS

PAS INVITE TO DAP A POLITICAL GIMMICK - MUSTAPA

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- The PAS invitation to the DAP to rejoin the opposition pact to face the next general election proves that the former is under intensive pressure to win the hearts of all Malaysians, Kelantan Umno Chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

The PAS invitation to the DAP was also aimed at making the people believe that PAS was a very liberal party when in fact it was an extremist party, he said.

Yesterday, Acting PAS President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang invited the DAP to rejoin the pact but it was turned down by DAP Secretary-General Kerk Kim Hock.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat had since urged the DAP to reconsider the invitation.

Mustapa said PAS now realised that it needed the help and influence of the DAP to win the non-Muslim vote.

"Hence they are bending backwards in their appeal to the DAP which had already rejected their invitation," he said.

He said the political situation in the country was now different compared to that prevailing in 1999 when PAS used the DAP to serve its own interests and now the DAP had come to realise this.

On the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Kelantan from Wednesday, Mustapa said it would provide an opportunity for the people in the state to thank him for developing the state even though it was ruled by the opposition.

"The visit will also strengthen our determination to win back Kelantan and present it to Dr Mahathir as a farewell gift," he said.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to retire as Prime Minister end of this year.

-- BERNAMA

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