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Mahathir-PAS

PAS TRIES TO FORM EVIL PACT WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES, SAYS DR M

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PAS was trying to form an "evil pact" with opposition parties, including inviting the DAP to cooperate, merely to fight the Barisan Nasional (BN).

The Prime Minister said PAS was prepared to openly set aside its struggles just to realise its political dreams.

"It (PAS) says please cooperate. Forget about policies...that's the kind of pact among mischievous people," he told a media conference here.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the latest move by PAS to invite DAP to rejoin the opposition alliance formed to oppose the BN in the next general election.

Acting PAS President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said on Sunday that PAS adopted an open mind in inviting the DAP to strengthen the opposition parties to face the ruling BN.

The DAP had, however, rejected the invitation on grounds that the two parties had different ideologies.

Dr Mahathir arrived here this evening for a two-day visit to meet the Kelantan people and to explain current issues.

The Prime Minister said the opposition pact, which PAS was trying to establish, was not a sincere move by PAS.

"We cannot struggle without having the same objectives," he said.

Asked whether the BN's intention to wrest Kelantan from PAS in the next general election was his personal ambition before he retires in October this year, Dr Mahathir said: "(not a question of whether) I want to retire or not, but we want to take back Kelantan."

He said Umno had never given up hope in wanting to recapture Kelantan from PAS since losing the state in the 1990 general election.

In fact, he is confident of BN coming to power in Kelantan this time, he said.

"I won't give up. We won't give up and we never give up," he said.

Asked on the type of changes to be made by the BN if it came to power in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said Kelantan would be a developed state just like other BN-controlled states.

"We can see the states under BN, what has happen. For instance, in Selangor, the world is impressed with Selangor. By looking at Selangor, they considered Malaysia as a developed country not a developing country anymore," he said.

He also hoped that the people in Kelantan would realise the weaknesses of PAS and be prepared to change the present government because it was evident that since PAS in power for three terms, there had been no development implemented in the state.

"We see that there is no development at all while PAS made all sorts of promises. What the federal government does, PAS claims that it was theirs. They can only do that," he said.

On the standardisation of the Islamic Family Law in the country, Dr Mahathir said all state governments should adopt the move.

He said the Conference of Rulers had accepted the proposal and it was only proper that all states, including PAS-led Kelantan and Terengganu, take action to standardise the law.

"The question of religion is not a question of royalty and not a question of state government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the question of amending the Federal Constitution to enforce a uniformed Islamic Family Law did not arise because the government received the cooperation of the Malay Rulers, who are head of religion in their respective states.

"We are getting the cooperation from the Sultans. Why we need to amend (the constitution)," he said.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir urged state governments to gazette the Islamic Family Law as soon as possible to counter allegations of non-uniformity in the implementation of Islamic laws, including those relating to polygamy.

-- BERNAMA

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