

02 FEB 2004
Mahathir-PAS
DR MAHATHIR DESCRIBES PAS AS VOTE-CRAZY

LANGKAWI, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that PAS is vote-crazy and is prepared to use any opportunity, including the misfortunes of others, to fish for votes.

It would appear that PAS members had nothing better to do than to sit down and think of ways to garner votes, he said.

"PAS sees an opportunity in everything to fish for votes. Everyday, PAS members sit down and think of votes and even cases of people being murdered and raped are used to garner votes...that's being vote-crazy,"

He was apparently referring to a claim by a khatib that the recent rape-cum-murder of the 10-year-old daughter of a Johor Umno official was divine punishment because her father belonged to a party which opposed PAS' hudud law.

"When PAS looks at people, it sees a chance to get votes, not to do welfare work. It only knows how to get votes," Tun Dr Mahathir told reporters after visiting a prawn-breeding project in Bukit Malut, here.

He said that PAS had since long ago been using whatever opportunity to gain support, like disrupting the studies of students with its politics.

But Umno was different. It had never taken advantage of the students for its political campaigns because it did not want to disrupt their studies, he said.

Asked to comment of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's performance since taking over the helm on Oct 31 last year, he said Abdullah had made good progress and had shown his credentials as prime minister.

"I pray that he continues to succeed," he said.

On the prawn-breeding project, he said there were many business opportunities in the country and all that was needed was the initiative to work and explore.

Despite the vast opportunities, many people still shied away from venturing into projects that could bring success, he said.

He cited the example of the prawn-breeding project which was successfully revived after 13 years, thanks to the enterprising spirit of several entrepreneurs.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali later released

50,000 prawn spat into the lake.

-- BERNAMA

ZI MZM SOM JK