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Dr M: Pas obsessed with fishing for votes

LANGKAWI, Mon. - Describing it as a party that "sleeps, eats and thinks only of getting votes", former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today slammed Pas for campaigning to get support from primary school pupils.

Dr Mahathir said he was saddened to hear that the party was now selling stationery to pupils at a school in Sik, Kedah, as the party would even go to the extent of influencing schoolchildren.

He said schools and pupils deserved to be free from politics, stressing that Umno had not once campaigned for support among university students.

"Don't disturb pupils. Let them learn. Pas sees everything as an opportunity to fish for votes.

"I do not know. Mungkin depa ni gila undi (Maybe they are crazy for votes). They sleep, eat and think about getting votes. People lose their children and they see it as something to get more votes.

"I am saddened by Pas' behaviour. Let the children learn. Don't disturb them. When they grow up you can ask them whether they want to join Pas or not," Dr Mahathir said after visiting the Sumber Nadi Alam Sdn Bhd tiger prawn farm project in Bukit Malut, near here. Yesterday, Education Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir directed the State Education Department to investigate claims that Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Chupir was selling stationery bearing Pas' logo to the school's pupils.

Their parents complained to the department after discovering that their children were being sold stationery, including rulers, which had the opposition party's logo, at the school's co-operative.