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PRIME NEWS

# Umno didn't dupe Pas, says Dr M

**PARTNERSHIP FAILURE:** Party's defeat also caused it to quit BN'

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**KUALA LUMPUR**

**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno did not dupe Pas, which Pas claimed to have happened when the party was in Barisan Nasional (BN).

The former prime minister said Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat was reported to have given the reason why Pas could not work with Umno to unite the Malays.

"He said Pas was duped by Umno when Pas was in BN. How Umno duped Pas was not clearly explained," Dr Mahathir said in his latest posting in his blog, [www.chedet.cc](http://www.chedet.cc).

He said the disunity in Pas at that time was not due to Umno, adding that the party's defeat in the Kelantan state election in March 1978 resulted in it leaving BN.

"The discord in Pas was not because of Umno but because Datuk Mohamad Nasir (then Kelantan menteri besar) had challenged the leadership of Datuk Asri Muda (then Pas president). Pas' defeat also caused it to quit BN. There was no deceit by Umno."

Dr Mahathir said he was a minister under the then prime minister Tun Hussein Onn when Pas quit BN, and was in Tun Abdul Razak Hussein's cabinet together with Asri and Datuk Hassan Adli (who was Pas deputy president at the time) when Pas joined BN earlier.

"Datuk Asri was given the post of land and mines minister. This means he was responsible for Felda."

"After some months of Pas being in BN, Johor Umno members complained to Tun Razak that Datuk Asri was actively promoting Pas

among Felda settlers. I was sitting next to Tun (Razak) at that moment."

Dr Mahathir said most of the Felda settlers had been strong supporters of Umno but after Asri was put in charge of Felda, many of them became staunch supporters of Pas and rejected Umno.

"At that time, there was a rift between Asri and Mohamad. Mohamad claimed that he had detected many instances of misappropriation by Asri when he was the menteri besar."

Dr Mahathir said Asri tried to remove Mohamad through a vote of no confidence but he refused to quit the post.

He said many Pas supporters sided with Mohamad and they held demonstrations against Asri.

"As Pas was divided, the Kelantan BN government could not func-



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Muslims must not reject efforts to unite and strengthen their community. Bernama pic

tion. Emergency was declared and a senior government official was appointed as the state's chief administrator.

"In March, 1978, a state election was held in Kelantan. Mohamad set up Berjasa which contested against Pas. Support for Berjasa was so strong that it won 11 seats while Pas won only two seats."

Despite what happened in the

past, said Dr Mahathir, Muslims were enjoined by Islam to welcome peace offered by their enemies.

"Muslims are also enjoined to be united and to regard each other as kin. Rejecting peace among Muslims is against Islamic teachings. Muslims must not reject efforts to unite and strengthen their community by making baseless accusations." **Bernama**