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By-elections not platform to change govt: Dr M

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KUALA KANGSAR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there is no way PAS is going to form a government just by winning the two parliamentary by-election seats.

He said the by-elections were not a platform for change of government nor policies as he had heard them (PAS) say. "PAS cannot form the government," he said in his keynote address at the iMalaysia Development Berhad (iMDB) special colloquium in Kuala Kangsar yesterday.

Mahathir said PAS was alone since it severed ties in the now defunct Pakatan Rakyat (PR) and needed support from others. "PAS was formidable when it was still in PR but outnumbered by their partners (DAP and PKR) in the coalition. This shows it is impossible for them (PAS) to be part of the government," he said as the packed audience gave a thunderous applause.

He said PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's new political strategy is to get support from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib

Abdul Razak.

"I told Abdul Hadi personally on the wrongdoings committed by Najib but he chose to get 'dedak' from him," he said

When asked on PAS' plan to implement hudud law in the country, Mahathir said what the party plans to do is not Islamic at all as it is against the teachings of Islam.

"The kind of hudud that PAS wants to implement will result in injustice," said Mahathir, who was on a visit to Kuala Kangsar in his bid to garner support for Pakatan Harapan by-election candidate Dr Ahmad Termizi Ramli, who faces a four-cornered fight against Datin Mastura Mohd Yazid of BN, Perak PAS Women's chief Dr Najihatussalehah Ahmad, and Independent candidate Izat Bukhary Ismail Bukhary.

A total of 25 polling districts with 71 streams will be set up at 19 primary and secondary schools, two community halls, two religious schools and two police stations.

The Kuala Kangsar parliamentary constituency has 32,949 voters - 22,496 Malays, 7,757 Chinese, 2,287 Indians, 330 Orang Asli, 16 Sarawak bumiputras and 13 Sabah bumiputras.



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Mahathir (seated, centre) speaking on his Citizens' Declaration. Also present are (seated from right) Amanah president Mohamad Sabu, Amanah's Kuala Kangsar candidate Dr Ahmad Termizi Ramli, DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang and Citizens' Declaration secretariat secretary Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar.