

Umno-PAS cooperation not a worry for us: Tun M

The Sun - 4/3/2019 Pg. 3.

► 'Such partnerships only happen during by-elections'

PUTRAJAYA: Pakatan Harapan (PH) is not worried by the cooperation between Umno and PAS which was said to be the cause of Barisan Nasional's victory in the Semenyih by-election, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The prime minister, who is also PH chairman, said cooperation between the two parties would only happen during by-elections.

"In a by-election, a win or loss is not disastrous but in the general election, they would not be able to cooperate.

"If they cooperate, PAS would not get anything," he told a media conference after opening National Landscape Day at the Botanical Gardens yesterday.

Mahathir said PH would conduct a post-mortem soon to identify the real cause of the defeat. He said the difference in majority obtained also showed Semenyih voters had changed their minds due to negative perception and religious provocation during the campaign period.

"There are some people who



Mahathir listening to a briefing after launching the event yesterday. At right is Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad. **-BERNAMAPIX**

unnecessarily caused anger like painting a cartoon of Prophet Muhammad," he said.

BN wrested the seat after its candidate, Zakaria Hanafi won the four-cornered contest with a majority of 1,914 votes.

Zakaria, 58, polled 19,780 votes to beat PH candidate Muhammad Aiman Zainali, 30, who obtained 17,866 votes; Nik Aziz Afiq Abdul, 25, from Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM)

(847 votes) and independent candidate, Kuan Chee Heng, 56, (725 votes).

Other PH leaders saw the defeat as a message to look deeper into the real issues. Its vice-president Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir said the coalition would address all its weaknesses in order to win back the people's hearts.

PH president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail also shared the

same view.

"We want the people to know that we are doing our best for the people," said the deputy prime minister.

BN deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the cooperation between BN and PAS was fruitful in winning the seat. "We (BN and PAS) want to ensure an effective check-and-balance system (in state and national affairs)," he said.