

Ramasamy: Dr Mahathir was right about PAS all along

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Saying Umno and PAS are playing a game with Hadi's bill, the DAP's P Ramasamy says Mahathir's contention that PAS is trouble has been proved true.

PETALING JAYA: The DAP's P Ramasamy has accused Umno and PAS of being in cahoots following Dewan Rakyat Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia's abrupt decision last Thursday to defer debate on the bill to amend the Shariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act.

Speaking to FMT, Ramasamy claimed that Umno and PAS were going back and forth with the bill, popularly known as Hadi's bill, in an attempt to sway voters.

"The way they are toying with the bill, it's obvious that this is a game being played by PAS and Umno together," he said.

Last month, Prime Minister Najib Razak announced that the government would not table the bill and would instead leave it to the Dewan Rakyat speaker to decide whether to give priority for the bill to be tabled.

This was an about turn as, during the Umno general assembly last December, Najib had said the government would take over the proposal from PAS and present it as a government bill, and only about two weeks ago, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had announced that the government would take over the private member's bill from PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

Ramasamy claimed it was evident that PAS members were all "troublemakers" and one of the few people who were adamant about this from the very start was former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"One thing about Mahathir is that he was always very clear about PAS and he always knew that PAS was going to cause problems. Today, it seems as though Najib is having a marriage of convenience with PAS," he said.

Ramasamy also noted how, in the past, Mahathir had always made a point of drawing the line between Islam and PAS' version of Islam.

"Now we see how Hadi Awang is using Islam for his own personal reasons. We also see how PAS and Umno are trying to divide the Muslims and non-Muslims, and we are all thinking there is something seriously wrong with this country."

He said it was good that Mahathir was now on Pakatan Harapan's side as his party Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) would be able to wrest votes from those who were deemed as Umno and PAS loyalists.

"Mahathir, in his own way, is trying to put a stop to Najib, and his party is gaining ground, especially in the Malay heartland.

"Najib is quite desperate, we don't know when he's going to call for elections," Ramasamy said.

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