

# Dr M: Why Pas is doing it

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**ALOR STAR, Fri. —**  
**Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** has described the two-imam phenomenon in Trengganu as a symptom of the frustration of Pas leaders who had failed to get the support of the people.

"Such incidents are created by Pas leaders to further their political objectives," he said.

Opening the Umno Alor

Star division's delegates conference here today, the Prime Minister said Pas leaders had resorted to such acts because they had failed to gain political power.

"Because of this frustration, they have resorted to

creating controversies in religious matters which had never arisen before," he said.

Pas leaders, he added, had conducted prayers with separate imams and introduced separate cemeteries for their followers.

"These people have disregarded Islam although they are aware that their action is contrary to Islamic teachings," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir described them as greedy people who were only interested in furthering their political aims.

"They are prepared to resort to anything just to win the people's support and to enable them to form the government," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said these people were so devoted to their political beliefs that they were willing to use religion as a tool to

achieve their goals.

He feared that if these activities were allowed to go unchecked, they might spread to other areas and many people would be affected.

He urged Umno members to intensify efforts to make the people realise the importance of unity in safeguarding the country's independence.

"We must realise that independence was obtained because there was unity among the people, particularly the Malays," he said.

According to him, efforts to divide the people only showed that there were people who did not value independence.

## Democracy

He warned that the current peace and prosperity enjoyed by the people through independence would vanish if the people did not value such an achievement.

Later, speaking at the opening of the Kubang Pasu Umno division's delegates conference at Sekolah Menengah Sultan Abdul Halim, about 20 km. from here, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the present democratic system could threaten and destroy the country if it was abused by irresponsible groups.

"Our democratic system allows the opposition parties to voice their opinions freely and also influence the people," he added.

However, he said, the people must be alert against such groups which would be out to win them over through various means.