

# No such thing as 2M Govt, says Dr M

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KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — There has never been a 2M Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The sobriquet used to refer to the Government he leads is merely the creation of the Press.

He said it was unfortunate that he was blamed when "things did not work out" according to the image created and expectations built up by the Press.

"Why isn't there no more 2M Government, they ask. There never was a 2M Government in the first place," he said at a Press conference after chairing the Sabah Barisan Nasional meeting.

2M refers to Mahathir-Musa, and came to be used after Datuk Musa Hitam, who won the deputy president post in the Umno election in 1981, became Deputy Prime Minister.

## Creation

It also gained popularity after the 1982 general election during which the 'Support for the 2M Administration' slogan was used by some Umno leaders in their campaign speeches.

The Prime Minister made the remarks in reply to a question seeking his comment on Press reports claiming that should there be a contest at the Umno Youth assembly between Encik Anwar Ibrahim and Syed Hamid Albar, it was likely to be a proxy fight between him and Datuk Musa.

"Such views are the creation of the Press. It has created such things as this, like the 2M Government for instance.

"Similarly, it has also said that in the event Anwar is challenged, it is going to be a proxy fight between Datuk Musa and I."

He said when Encik Anwar challenged Datuk Suhalmi Kamaruddin, "It was not a proxy fight".

"I don't have proxy fights with anyone. As leader of the Barisan Nasional and Umno, I don't support any candidate in party contests," he said.