

PM rules out deal among Big Four'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today ruled out any hope of a compromise among the "Big Four" in the Umno elections.

He told reporters here he did not see any hope for a compromise at the moment.

The Prime Minister was talking to reporters after opening a joint-meeting of seven Umno divisions in the Federal Territory at the Putra World Trade Centre.

He said it was best "if everybody waits for his turn to climb up the party ladder."

There had been attempts by Umno Mentris Besar and Chief Minister for the "Big Four" — Dr Mahathir, party deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam, vice-president Abdul Ghafar Baba, and Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah — to compromise.

Dr Mahathir said, however, no one had approached him on the subject and that he had only heard of it from the newspapers.

He said he had been the Prime Minister for only six years and if anybody wanted to contest against him "then do not make allegations or smears."

Dr Mahathir said he had supported from the start the bid by vice-president Ghafar Baba to contest the party's deputy presidency.