

I am fed up with these people, says Dr Mahathir

ALOR STAR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is "fed up" with certain quarters for continuing to regard the Hume Industries take-over bid of Multi-Purpose Holdings Bhd (MPHB) as a Malay-Chinese racial issue.

The Prime Minister said the unceasing comments by the group on the matter showed they had not heeded his recent advice "to stop turning the proposed take-over into a racial issue.

"Frankly, I am fed up with the subject. They have not heeded my advice at all," he said when commenting on remarks made by the group on the proposed bid.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here shortly before departing for Kuala Lumpur this morning.

The Prime Minister said the group should stop harping on the matter along racial lines and should "talk bu-

siness" on the bid.

Hume Industries Malaysia Bhd had announced its bid for MPHP, the investment arm of MCA, earlier this month. This led certain quarters to politicise the proposed take-over.

Prompted by the rumours, Dr Mahathir issued a statement on April 18 expressing regret that certain people were turning it into a Malay-Chinese racial issue.

He had said the bid was a commercial matter and did not contravene the Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

He had also said that it was "ridiculous to say that Umno, or the Finance Ministry or the Government is behind Hume's offer to take over MPHP".

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali arrived here yesterday for a short visit.

He broke fast with the rakyat at the Alaqla mosque in Jitra last night.