

DAP pullout from NECC a political ploy, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the DAP pull-out from the National Economic Consultative Council as a political ploy and not made in the interest of national unity as claimed by the party.

Criticising the move, the Prime Minister said the DAP leaders wanted to isolate themselves so that they could say they had nothing to do with the post-New Economic Policy decided by the NECC.

"What they are doing is not because of their responsibility to the nation or for

national unity. It's political," he told newsmen after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang announced the withdrawal yesterday claiming among the reasons, that members not fluent in the national language were not allowed to speak in English.

The party also wanted senior Umno leaders like Dr Mahathir and his deputy Abdul Ghafar Baba to be involved in the NECC.

To this, Dr Mahathir replied that if he participated

in the NECC as suggested by the DAP, he would be accused of trying to influence the council members.

He said Mr Lim's reason for suggesting that he (Dr Mahathir) and other senior Umno leaders participate in the NECC was merely to satisfy his ego.

"Since he is the party secretary-general, he feels the Umno president and Barisan Nasional chairman must also be present in the council.

"If they are not in the council, he feels the others are of lower status than him. This arrogance is totally unacceptable."