

DAP's future bleak, says Mahathir

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LANGKAWI, Tues: The political future of the once mighty DAP is bleak, following the forced withdrawal of its candidate from the Lunas by-election, Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He was responding to a question if he foresees DAP eventually pulling out of the opposition coalition, dominated by PAS and Keadilan.

"If DAP pulls out, the party is totally lost. They will be alone," he said.

According to Mahathir, DAP was actually entrapped by PAS and Keadilan, with the latter as the catalyst.

He said the party which stands to benefit the most is PAS, while Keadilan did not make many inroads in the last general election.

"PAS knew about the An-

war Ibrahim issue earlier than we (Umno) did," he said.

"When Anwar was in the government, he was soundly criticised by PAS, but when the issue surfaced, PAS suddenly became very good to him (Anwar) and strongly supported his cause."

Mahathir described PAS as being very selfish. "PAS knew that they could not win in one area, so they surrendered all

areas where the Chinese were the majority to DAP, and set terms that DAP must support either PAS or Keadilan.

"However, in areas with a low Malay count, DAP now cannot enter," he said, referring to the Opposition's double standard.

He also said the Chinese are not necessarily the deciding voters in Lunas, as there are also many Malays there.