

'Stubborn PAS' to be blamed for Malay split

KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the present split among Malays should be blamed on the stubbornness of PAS.

He said PAS, like Parti Semangat 46, was a breakaway party of Umno.

However, unlike Semangat which eventually dissolved itself with its members returning to Umno, PAS continued to refuse to do so.

The Barisan Nasional chairman said PAS also refused to participate in talks with Umno on the Malay unity issue.

"This kind of stubbornness only makes the Malays weak," the Prime Minister told the delegates to a special conference here for the dissolution of Parti Akar for its members to join Umno.

Dr Mahathir said PAS was set up by a group of *ulamas* in Umno who felt that they had not been treated fairly in the party.

He said since setting up PAS, the former Umno *ulamas* had been using religion to attract support from the Malays.

"Regrettably many Malays believed them. That is why there is a split among the Malays," Dr Mahathir said.