

'PAS fears losing non-Malay support if it holds unity talks'

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PAS does not want to meet Umno for the proposed Malay unity talks as it fears losing the support of the non-Malays, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

PAS seems not really interested in having the dialogue and is insincere, he said.

"They put up all kinds of reasons why they should not meet us ... they impose all kinds of conditions to make it difficult for us to meet them," he said at a press conference.

"We are still willing to meet them but it is obvious that they want to gain some kind of political mileage from this discussion."

Despite Umno stating

clearly that it wants to discuss Malay unity, a subject of common interest to both parties, PAS is still unwilling to do so, he said.

On whether PAS is willing to meet Umno halfway on the issue of Malaysia as an Islamic state, Mahathir said that is the reason why he wants PAS to explain how it wants to set up its own government if it wins the next general election.

"They are saying that we are not Islamic ... that we are secular and we are even an infidel government," he said.

"(Explain), so that we can all know - Malays, Chinese and Indians - what to expect when PAS forms the government."

He said PAS has been talking about one government structure to the Malays and another to the Chinese.

"Let them put this in writing, in Chinese if they want to, so that everybody will know what kind of government they want to set up in this country," he said.

On PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer recently, Mahathir said Malaysia is capable of solving its own problems.

"This running away to a white man to solve brown man's problem is something that we did ages ago... we have discarded that idea already," he said.