

# PM: PAS influence undermining the faith

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SUBANG: The incident of praying with two imams at the Ar-Rahman Mosque near Universiti Malaya is a proof of how PAS' influence is creating a rift among Muslims.

Such influence, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had gone to the extent of undermining the Muslims' faith in the religion.

"This is an interesting development," he said when asked to comment on a report that a group of UM students and supporters of a political party had resorted to the move since about two months ago.

"It used to be we were one race, one religion and very united. But now what PAS is doing is causing disunity among them and undermining their faith in Islam," he told reporters upon his arrival

from Kampala after attending the Global 2001 Smart Partnership International Dialogue at the RMAF base near here yesterday.

Federal Territory PAS information chief Rashidi Hasnan said the incident would not have happened if the Federal Territory Religious Affairs Department (Jawi) practised more responsibility in its work.

He said the dismissal of previous mosque officials and replacing them with "Umno officials" had led to a situation where the mosque *qariah* (congregation) did not believe in the mosque officials anymore.

He said, PAS would bring the matter up with Jawi so that a solution could be found and Muslims would not be divided.