

Listen to people's views, says MAF

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been urged that as a good leader, he should listen to the views of the people and take into account their grouses.

Various speakers at the Malay Solidarity Gathering, organised by the Malay Action Front, also called on the Government to bring back scholarships for Malay students at both local and foreign universities instead of the current system of education loans.

They also questioned the implementation of the pri-

vatisation policies which they claimed only benefited a small group of Malays.

Former Umno Youth exco member Tajuddin Rahman said: "Big Malay entrepreneurs should not be greedy and take everything for themselves."

"I urge Dr Mahathir to clean up his Cabinet which suffers an image problem in the eyes of the people and to restore their trust."

Datuk Mazlan Harun said there was nothing wrong in giving constructive criticism to the top leader because the aim was to unite the Malays.

"Why buy back the MAS

shares from Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli at the same price that he bought it?

"Shouldn't the Government pay a lower price? Sometimes the leaders make it hard for us.

"They run too fast and the supporters are left far behind.

"I want to tell Dr Mahathir it is time he listens to our advice," he said.

He said two main challenges facing the Malays now were the Chinese extremists who had dared to

question bumiputra rights and foreign groups who were trying to promote new form of politics for the Malays.

"Our point is, we must always look at the bigger picture. Whatever happens, the Malays must continue to lead this country," he added.

Former Kuala Kedah MP Datuk Zakaria Said said: "We want to remind the leaders that the Malays would not desert Umno without reason."

"Umno leaders should do

some soul-searching as to why Malays had rejected the party in the 1999 elections.

"If a house is in a poor state, then we should not demolish it. If it is the pillar that is faulty, then we can replace that part," he said, in an apparent reference to Umno.

The gathering co-ordinating chairman Datuk Ibrahim Ali stressed that if the Malays' political power diminished due to disunity, then the responsibility should be borne by all Malay leaders.