

Malays split four ways with MAF, says Mahathir

STAR 13.2.2001
KOTA KINABALU: The Malay community is now divided four ways because of the Malay Action Front (MAF), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said he did not understand what MAF wanted when he was asked what he thought was the reason for their criticism of his leadership.

"I really don't understand them. When they saw me previously they said they wanted to hold this thing (Feb 4 gathering) in order to create Malay unity.

"But now instead of being divided into three namely Umno, Keadilan and PAS, we also have them," he said before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit

to Sabah.

Asked if he thought that MAF had a hidden agenda the Umno president said: "I don't know."

The recent MAF rally criticised the Umno leadership and several Umno leaders had demanded an apology from the front but the group's co-ordinating chairman Datuk Ibrahim Ali said

they had no intention of apologising.

Asked if the proposed Feb 19 unity talks between Umno and PAS could lead to PAS rejoining the Barisan Nasional, Dr Mahathir said: "That question does not arise. We are discussing Malay unity, not unity of Malay parties."

To a question on calls by

certain Umno leaders who opposed the no-contest move at division elections as it would not help in rejuvenating the party, he said a contest was democratic.

"But on the other hand, we find that some people cannot accept the results of the contest. If they lose they become undemocratic and so that is a problem," he said.