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Mahathir-MAF

MAF'S STRUGGLES UNCLEAR, SAYS PM

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he could not understand what the Malay Action Front (MAF) is struggling for.

"I really don't understand them because when they saw me before, they said that they want to hold this thing (the gathering) in order to create Malay unity," he said.

Speaking at a news conference here at the end of his two-day visit to Sabah, Dr Mahathir, who Umno president, however said that the gathering did not seem to have achieved what it intended to be.

"Instead of being divided into three, that is Umno, Keadilan and PAS, now we have four...Umno, Keadilan, Pas and MAF," he said.

Asked whether there was any hidden agenda on the part of the MAF, Dr Mahathir said: "I do not know whether they hide (it) or not but it is quite obvious".

Asked whether the PAS-Umno meeting on the issue of Malay unity will pave the way for PAS to be in the Barisan Nasional (BN), Dr Mahathir said: "The question does not arise because what we'll be discussing will be Malay unity, not unity of Malay parties".

He was also asked to comment on a news report today on some 600 students of three schools in Gua Musang, Kelantan, who may not be able to sit for their Penilaian Menengah Rendah and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examinations this year.

According to the news report, they have failed to pay their examination fees due to poverty.

Dr Mahathir said that the government would study the matter to determine whether or not it was because of poverty or some other factors.

He however said that the circumstances they are in should not stop them from studying hard.

"We find that sometimes poor students are able to achieve excellent results...but if they don't study, even the rich ones will fail," he added.

-- BERNAMA

JS RM