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Former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, speaking at *UiTM* in Shah Mam yesterday, says Malays can lose their rights. Pic by Osman Adnan

## Dr M: Not good to have too many Malay NGOs

SHAH ALAM: The formation of many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to champion Malay rights and Islam is detrimental to Malays, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This would lead to a split among Malays, which would defeat the purpose of their establishment, he said after delivering a lecture, titled "Transformation of The Mind Among Youth Researchers", at Universiti Teknologi Mara here yesterday.

He said Malays could lose their rights, making them more dependent on other races.

"If we are split, we will become weak and our assets will be owned

by others," he said, echoing the sentiments of Perak mufti Tan Seri Harussani Zakaria, who said Malays were losing out on the country's economic pie.

When asked to comment on recently-launched Jati by its president, former Pas leader Datuk Dr Hasan Ali, Dr Mahathir said Dr Hasan should clear the air about Jati's purpose.

"He needs to explain the goal of his NGO because I feel that too many NGOs are sprouting up."

On Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's acceptance of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's explanation of his statement supporting Israel's security, Dr Mahathir said

this was not surprising, given that during Pas' time in Barisan Nasional, its leaders accommodated such actions to further their agenda.

"That time, the party was arrogant and was concerned only with furthering the party's agenda, instead of the coalition government's.

"Now that it is in Pakatan Rakyat, it is repeating its actions."

In his speech, Dr Mahathir urged researchers to empower themselves with the right attitude to ensure the country turned into a world-class research facility by 2020.

"We need to follow the example of Muslim scholars who made remarkable breakthroughs in medicine and science."