

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	6 AUGUST 2016

# 'Dr M is no different from others'

NST-6/8/2016

**NEW PARTY:** He is disappointed with Umno, so forms splinter group, say Umno leaders

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad previously did not encourage the Malays to be divided into many political parties, but was now encouraging it, said Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Dr Mahdzir Khalid.

"As a democratic country, we do not have any problem and cannot stop anybody from forming a new party.

"However, to quote the former prime minister himself, the more Malay political parties, the less members in each party," he said after opening the Kubang Kerian Wanita, Youth and Puteri delegates' meeting here yesterday.

He was commenting on reports that former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin would submit an application to form a new political party to the Registry of Societies.

He said Umno and other Barisan Nasional components should be prepared for challenges from other political parties, regardless of the opposition or the new party.

In **Malacca**, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said there was no difference between Dr Mahathir and other disgruntled former Umno members who had formed splinter groups after breaking away from Umno.

Idris said what Dr Mahathir had done was expected as this had happened before.

"There is no difference between Dr Mahathir and others who were disappointed with the party (Umno) and formed splinter groups," he said at the Melaka International Remote Control Powerboat Race at Tasik Ayer Keroh here yesterday.

He cited examples where past Umno leaders had formed splinter groups as they were dissatisfied with the country's leadership.

"This was also the case during Dr Mahathir's era, when he was party



(From left) Former Taman TKK Umno branch chief **Kamarul Azman Habibur Rahman**, former Langkawi Wanita Umno member **Anina Saadudin**, former Umno deputy president **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin**, former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, former Kedah menteri besar **Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir**, former Bendang Baru Umno branch Youth chief **Akhramsyah Sanusi** and youth activist **Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman** at Dr Mahathir's residence on Thursday.

president. Some quarters were dissatisfied with him and formed their own parties, for example Semangat 46 and PKR."

Idris lambasted Dr Mahathir for "having the heart" to form a new party without clear goals.

"He is disappointed, so he forms a

new party.

"There is no difference between him and (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim."