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'Dr M behind Malay split'

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BATU PAHAT: Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the party's former president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the one responsible for the division among Malays.

Ismail Sabri, who is also Rural and Regional Development Minister, said this led to Malays to be split into a number of small political parties.

He also agreed with Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar's view that Dr Mahathir was the root cause of disunity.

"There are six parties (formed as a result of disunity among the Malays). Two of them are caused by Dr Mahathir.

"For example, when Anwar (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) was sacked (from Umno), he formed PKR.

"Semangat 46 was also formed because of Dr Mahathir's actions. Now, he sets up a new party (Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia) which is aimed at attracting Umno members. This will divide the Malays further," he said after opening the Parit Sulong Umno division delegates meeting here yesterday. He advised party members not to get too sentimental about former leaders.

"We know that they have done a lot, but when they form a new party together with the opposition to oppose Umno, then they are the enemies of Umno," he said.