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'Dr M's beggars remark can cause disunity'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's remark that the Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM) is turning recipients into beggars could cause disunity, said Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Irmohizam Ibrahim.

He said Dr Mahathir's constant criticism of government efforts could confuse the people.

"He called BRIM a bribe, so he is also criticising its recipients.

"Calling BRIM recipients beggars is not something a former prime minister should say," he said yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's claim that the monthly allowance for fishermen could be "manipulated" to gain votes seemed to be made to get support from his opposition allies.

At a *ceramah* in Alor Star on Friday, Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, said: "Now, under (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Najib (Razak), everything will require money.

"As a result, the people have become beggars and made to be beggars by Najib. He gives cash so that we worship him.

"I heard fishermen are now given a monthly allowance. They are also provided with a boat or an engine.

"Give cash and there will be support. Yet, there is no medicine in hospitals."