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U-TURN

Dr Mahathir: MCA, not DAP, wanted DPM post

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir, Mohamad, who claimed that DAP had sought the post of deputy prime minister (DPM), has made yet another U-turn, this time claiming that it was MCA that had asked for it.

Via a blog post, the former prime minister corrected his earlier statement to say that it was MCA that had asked for the position, not DAP.

"I was reported as saying that DAP

asked to have a second DPM. I wish to correct my mistake. It was not DAP, but MCA," he wrote.

Dr Mahathir claimed that the request was made by MCA deputy secretary-general Datuk Loke Yuen Yow, who was deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department in 2009.

In his post, Dr Mahathir attached a report from the Information Department, which had highlighted a re-

quest by Loke to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The report read: "Datuk Loke Yuen Yow, MCA deputy secretary-general, on his website, urged Datuk Seri Najib Razak to create the post of second deputy prime minister and deputy Barisan Nasional chairman, which will be filled by its president to reflect true power sharing."

Loke added that the post of second deputy prime minister for the MCA

president was not just to realise the concept of power sharing, but to also show that the government placed importance on the role and contributions of the Chinese community to nation-building.

Earlier this week, Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, had said that DAP had sought the post of DPM should the opposition win in the 14th General Election.