

# 'POLITICAL CONFLICTS HAVE SPLIT MALAYS'

That's why they are weak and disunited, says PM

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**P**OLITICAL conflicts are the reason why Malays and Muslims in the country are weak and disunited, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said although Muslims in the country adhered to the teachings of the Sunnah Wal Jamaah (Sunnis), which were consistent with the teachings of Imam Shafie, conflicts happened because of political differences.

"For hundreds of years, our Islamic faith has remained the same, that is, based on the teachings of the Sunnah Wal Jamaah, but when politics gets in the way, people are accusing each other of infidelity and this has split us.

"Although we embrace one religion and one faith, we are now seriously divided and weakened. We now have six (political parties). There is no more Malay majority in politics."

Dr Mahathir said this during a dialogue session with undergraduates at the Semarak Merdeka Town Hall session here yesterday.

The programme, attended by 2,000 guests, was hosted by state Industrial, Trade and Investment Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Rafiq Naizamohideen.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Sahrudin Jamal, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad meeting participants in the Semarak Merdeka Town Hall session in Melaka yesterday. PIC BY MUHAMMAD ZUHAIRI ZUBER

Md Yusof and state Education, Science, Technology, Green Technology and Innovation Committee chairman Noor Etfendi Ahmad.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims were lagging behind in various fields, including economy, which would eventually be dominated by

other races.

"If we do not correct ourselves (holding on to Islamic teachings), we will be left further behind and this country will no longer be ours."

To a question on his recent official visit to Turkey, Dr Mahathir said he was quite impressed with

the Islamic state which he considered to be advanced.

"The people are capable, diligent and skilled in various fields," he said.

"Turkey is already a developed country. The Turkish people are highly skilled, efficient, and able to build airplanes, jet fighters,

drones and their own multistorey homes. The development in Turkey is much better than Malaysia's.

"All these are the result of the commitment shown by the Turkish people when they do things."

**Additional reporting by Amr Mamat**