

Khairy is afraid of 'old people', says Mahathir

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The former prime minister dismisses the Umno Youth leader's claim that he is dividing the people.

PETALING JAYA: Khairy Jamaluddin is afraid of "old people", Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today, in response to the Umno Youth leader's call on him and other opposition leaders to retire from politics.

"That is his view. He is afraid. Even of old people, he is afraid," the PPBM chairman said today at a Hari Raya event hosted by PPBM president Muhyiddin Yassin.

"If he is afraid of old people, then don't be in politics.

"He is scared. We pity him," said the 92-year-old former prime minister.

Apart from Mahathir, Khairy had also urged DAP's Lim Kit Siang and jailed PKR leader Anwar Ibrahim to retire from politics.

Mahathir said there was no need for him to follow what Khairy had said, and questioned the claim opposition leader were dividing the people.

"I do not know. Wherever I go, lots of people come.

"I think I am uniting the people," he added.

Khairy, who is also the youth and sports minister, said Mahathir and Anwar were trying to divide the Malays for their own vested interests.

He also accused Lim of trying to create a rift between Malays and Chinese.

Khairy said they should allow younger people to take over the leadership of their respective parties.

"Give us (young people) a chance to contest in peace and in a healthy competition," he said.

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