

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has claimed that promoting Malaysia as a multiracial country is against the Federal Constitution. In a Twitter posting, Dr Mahathir responded to Umno Bukit Gelugor information chief Mohd Huzaidi Mohd Hussin's calls for him to stop playing up racial sentiments. According to Dr Mahathir, he is merely voicing what is stated in the Federal Constitution, and defending the constitution is not against the law. However, he argues that promoting Malaysia as a multiracial country goes against the constitution, which emphasizes the "Malay-ness" of Malaysia. Dr Mahathir further alleges that prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is adhering to DAP's manifesto. He points out that although DAP only has four ministers in the cabinet, there are 40 DAP members in the government, and if they withdraw their support, Anwar's government could be toppled. Therefore, Dr Mahathir believes Anwar should take heed of DAP's manifesto, which aims to make the country a multiracial one and change the official religion of Islam to a secular status. Earlier, on June 16, Huzaidi had urged Dr Mahathir to refrain from stirring up racial sentiments and dismissed the former prime minister's claims regarding DAP's influence on the unity government, citing DAP's limited ministerial positions.