

# Kelantan-Terengganu Umno joint committee

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**By Hisham Mahzan**

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Kelantan and Terengganu Umno will set up a joint committee to co-ordinate the party's activities in both States, Umno president, ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said.

He did not say when the committee would be set up but said that Kelantan Umno had started to prepare for its establishment.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Prime Minister, was speaking to reporters after chairing the Kelantan Umno liaison committee meeting here today.

This was Dr Mahathir's first meeting with the committee since he took over the chairmanship from former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaacob.

He said the Kelantan liaison committee had agreed that the 13 divisions here

would have special relations with the various State Umno to further strengthen Kelantan Umno.

The Bachok and Kuala Kerai divisions will have special relations with Johor Umno, Nilam Puri with Selangor, Tumpat with Kedah, Kota Baru with Kuala Lumpur, Tanah Merah with Malacca, Pasir Puteh and Pengkalan Chepa with Terengganu, Rantau Panjang with Perak, Gua Musang with Negeri Sembilan, Kok Lanas with Pahang, Machang with Penang and Pasir Mas with Perlis.

The links between these branches and the other States will help strengthen Umno in Kelantan.

He reiterated Umno's willingness to accept former Semangat 46 members, saying that they could apply for membership through the branches or directly through the Supreme Council.

In the last week, two Semangat elected representatives, the Pasir Mas MP, Haji Ibrahim Ali and Sungai Pinang State Assemblyman, Haji Nordin Salleh, left the party.

Dr Mahathir had earlier addressed a large gathering of former *imam*, religious social workers, *penghulu* and religious teachers at the Umno building.

Dr Mahathir expressed regret over the Pas-led Kelantan Government's statement about two weeks ago that it was not its responsibility to help the poor.

Pas Government leaders had said that the responsibility was with the families of the people.

Dr Mahathir said it was a fact that the responsibility to look after the poor was that of the Government.

He said Umno's defeat in Kelantan in the last general election was a test for members.