

Ghafar will still be invited to attend the functions

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KOTA BARU, Sat. — Umno would still like Encik Ghafar Baba, who resigned today as party deputy president, to attend Umno functions, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, who is party president, said invitations would still be sent to him to attend.

He was asked by reporters on Ghafar's resignation after opening the Kelantan Umno mini convention here.

"I have nothing to comment. It is his decision (to step down)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies, whose joint opening is traditionally carried out by the party deputy president, would proceed without any official opening.

He said nobody would replace Ghafar in opening the assemblies.

He said Ghafar sent a letter announcing his resignation as deputy president effective Nov 1.

On the possibility of a general election soon, Dr Mahathir said there might be early elections in Sabah and Kelantan.

However, he said he did not know when the general

election would be held.

Regarding his call to Umno members to be friendly with members of the opposition parties, Dr Mahathir said there was no such thing as a permanent enemy in politics.

"They can be our enemies today but our friends tomorrow. Maybe we cannot become friends at party level,

but we certainly can become friends on individual basis."

Dr Mahathir, who is Kelantan Umno liaison chief, said his advice and directives to Umno members were to serve as a reminder to them that in their eagerness to contest various party posts they should not forget the importance of winning the election in or-

der to form the Government.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the campaigns carried out by candidates contesting the various party posts, Dr Mahathir said there were certain aspects with which he was not happy but on the whole, the campaigns were carried out smoothly.