

# Why wait? Resign, Dr M tells Zahid

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to resign instead of waiting to be expelled.

"His strategy is like Anwar's. Anwar should have resigned but he wanted the party to sack him so that he could blame the party for treating him unfairly," said the Umno president.

"That is Zahid. He knows that if he leaves it (his fate) to the supreme council, he would be expelled," Dr Mahathir told reporters after visiting the 16th Commonwealth Games Corporate Hospitality Village at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on Zahid's statement that he wanted the supreme council to decide on his position as Youth chief.

Zahid has come under increasing pressure

to resign from the movement for supporting Anwar who was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2.

At the informal Umno Youth exco meeting last Thursday, Zahid said he would let the party president and supreme council "decide on my position."

He said the constitution of the party and the movement did not provide for the sacking of the Youth chief or exco members elected to their posts.

Dr Mahathir said Umno would not take action against members who were now supporting Anwar.

However, he said the loyalty of such members would be questioned when the party next reviewed their membership.

Dr Mahathir said members who did not believe his explanation on why Anwar was sacked from the Government and party would "see the light."

"Maybe at the end when evidence is re-

vealed in court, then they may believe," he added.

He said members who did not believe that the party was right in its action were cheating themselves.

"The supreme council had voted unanimously to expel Anwar although some of them were Anwar's supporters. They supported the expulsion."

He said he did not believe that Umno members would be convinced into joining Anwar's reform movement, "except a few who have personal problems, who are not happy with this or that."

Calling Anwar an opportunist, Dr Mahathir said Anwar was now making use of mosques when he was against it while in government.

On Anwar's planned roadshow to publicise his reform movement, Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said no action would be taken if it was done in a peaceful manner.