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`Consultative spirit is alive in Umno'

KUANTAN, Sat. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that he would consult his Umno colleagues on whether or not to appoint a deputy before the party elections next year is another proof that the consultative spirit is prevailing in the party.

He said under the constitution, the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister was the prerogative of the Prime Minister and by right, he (Dr Mahathir) did not have to discuss it with anybody.

"But still he wants to talk it over with his Umno colleagues. This shows that the Prime Minister takes into consideration views of other senior party leaders," he said after a meeting with Jerantut Umno Youth chief Azman Ismail and his committee members.

At a Press conference at his office on Wednesday, the Prime Minister was asked whether he would appoint a deputy, and about the possibility of the country experiencing political instability should anything happen to him now that there was no Deputy Prime Minister.

"This is something I need to consult my Umno colleagues. I have a duty to consult them," stated Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was removed as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno a day after.

On today's meeting, Khalil said he took the opportunity to explain to the Jerantut Umno Youth committee members events leading to the sacking of Anwar from the government and party posts.

Meanwhile, Azman said his committee now had a clear understanding on the situation and would support acting Umno Youth leader Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein.

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