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Malacca, Pahang want Dr Mahathir to stay on as Umno president

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Two State Umno leaders today said their States would support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad if he decided to defend his position as party president.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said the State Umno would propose that the post of party president was not challenged.

Mohd Ali, who is also an Umno supreme council member, said the country and party needed the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

"Dr Mahathir is the best leader to steer the nation forward. Furthermore, he has proven his capabilities in overcoming the economic problems faced by the country," he told reporters after chairing the State Exco meeting in Malacca today.

Mohd Ali said the State Umno would ask its five divisions to support Dr Mahathir. The divisions are Batu Berendam, Kota Melaka, Alor Gajah, Jasin and Selandar.

The State Umno would also propose that the post of party deputy president was not challenged.

In Kuantan, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said Dr Mahathir was capable of leading Umno and should be allowed continue doing so.

"He is still active and can come up with good and viable ideas. This criteria is enough to fill the requirement (that he remains as party president)," he said.

Speaking during a break in the on-going State Assembly, Adnan, who is State Umno information chief, said Pahang would fully support Dr Mahathir if he decided to defend the Umno presidency.

"The question of Dr Mahathir being challenged for the number one party post does not arise."

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he would defend the Umno presidency if he was renominated for the post in next year's party election.

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