

Dr M to meet grassroots leaders in Yan next week

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ALOR STAR, Wed. — Umno grassroots leaders from Padang and Yan divisions will be free to raise any issue with party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a closed-door dialogue in Yan at Sekolah Menengah Agama in Titi Serong on Monday. It is part of a series of gatherings planned between Dr Mahathir and Umno divisions nationwide.

It is intended to help chart plans on what needs to be done to strengthen the party in the State.

This is the third *Majlis Perjumpaan Mesra dengan Presiden* in Kedah and the second closed-door dialogue with grassroots leaders.

Padang division chief Datuk Othman Abdul and his counterpart in Yan division Datuk Badruddin Amiruddin said today those invited would be free to raise issues with the party president.

"They can be open and frank. It will be strictly closed-door and

those attending will wear authorised tags," said Othman.

Badruddin said it was an opportunity for grassroots leaders to be in direct contact with Dr Mahathir.

"The party president is a reasonable man and very open during discussion but I must remind the leaders that as Malays, they should be polite when criticising the leaders or party policies," he said.

Dr Mahathir met grassroots leaders in Padang Terap, Pokok Sena, Sik and Baling divisions in separate sessions last month.

However, a dialogue was only held with Sik and Baling divisions.

The one planned for Padang Terap and Pokok Sena divisions was called off before the start because certain people had been given set questions to be raised during the dialogue.

Dr Mahathir will make a three-day working visit to Kedah beginning Sunday.