

'Malay tongue' talks to be held at national level

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KANGAR: The proposed seminar on Pengurusan *Mulut Melayu* (Management of the Malay tongue) will be held at national level either in Kuala Lumpur or here.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the state was serious when it proposed the seminar, adding: "It is no laughing matter as we plan to conduct preparations to make it a national-level seminar with many Malay personalities and academics invited to offer their viewpoints.

"Initial feedback shows there is interest among many Malays. We may either organise it in Perlis or Kuala Lumpur," he told a press conference.

He said Malays should

study why the "Malay tongue" had caused the community to be preoccupied with rumour-mongering and slander affecting efforts of Malay leaders to bring development.

Shahidan said state exco members would head sub-committees to prepare working papers and other matters to organise the seminar.

He also said the Opposition would be invited, adding that a few leaders had verbally indicated their interest.

Shahidan said he would also invite Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to attend the event, which was scheduled for November, as it would be his first event after retiring as Prime Minister.