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Dr M warns of jostling for Kubang Pasu seat

JITRA, Fri. - Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today cautioned Kedah Umno members against jostling for the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat for the coming general election.

"This will affect the party's chances of retaining the seat," said the MP for Kubang Pasu, referring also to the fact that he would not be defending his parliamentary seat.

Dr Mahathir, who retired on Oct 31, was asked to comment on rumours of the intense lobbying.

While admitting that the practice was "normal", he said that intense jostling would sow dissension.

"Even if someone is successful at lobbying for the seat, he risks losing support and without it, he will lose," he said after visiting the Jitra Hospital.

"The candidate must be dedicated, sincere, close to the rakyat and free from money politics."

When asked if he had any specific person in mind, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know. It's not my right to determine."

Dr Mahathir also took the opportunity to wish Selamat Hari Raya to his constituents.

During his hospital visit, Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, presented Hari Raya gifts to 60 patients of all ages.

Later, the couple visited a RM40,000 three-bedroom single-storey house belonging to villager Hashim Mustaffa in Kampung Salit, Jitra.

The house is part of the subsidised Mesra Rakyat housing programme by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad to help poor villagers with land.