

Zahid confirms Dr M invited for Umno AGM

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Umno members can still show respect for former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad without accepting all his opinions, Umno vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi in an interview with The Star published today.

"The majority of Umno members still appreciate him but there is a line between respecting him and accepting his opinion [...] there is a difference," said the Deputy Prime Minister on Mahathir's criticisms of Umno president Najib Abdul Razak.

Despite his ongoing attacks against Umno and Najib, Zahid said Mahathir still commands respect from many in the party and he has also been invited to attend the Dec 10 opening of the Umno general assembly.

"I am very sure the letter of invitation will go out soon but whether he accepts or not is up to him to decide.

Zahid also revealed during the interview that he paid a courtesy call on Mahathir three months ago, shortly after he was named deputy prime minister.

"I called on Dr Mahathir at his residence. I had called on him twice before that on other matters but this was a courtesy call to show my respect and to seek guidance as well as advice.

"He was very frank and I want to respect the differences in opinion. I think he appreciated my visit," Zahid was quoted as saying.

Mahathir had called for Najib's resignation over the 1MDB issue and recently warned that no single party should rule a country forever.

Earlier this week, Mahathir had in a blog post noted that there were efforts to prevent him from meeting Umno members and taking to the public.

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