

Dr Mahathir dialogue may be off

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Kelantan chapter of the council of former elected representatives (Mubarak) has agreed to reconsider its controversial invitation to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to attend a dialogue.

Mubarak national president Tan Sri Abdul Razak Alias said he had spoken to his Kelantan president Datuk Ahmad Shahibudin Mohd Noor and asked him to put off the event scheduled in Kota Baru for July 27.

"Shahibudin agreed to call a meeting to discuss the matter and I will attend the meeting. If the meeting decides to postpone the dialogue, we will make sure the decision is followed," Razak said yesterday after attending the Terengganu Mubarak general meeting

and family day at Primula Beach Resort here.

The meeting was opened by Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh. Also present were Terengganu Mubarak president Datuk Ahmad Sidi Ismail and former Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Meanwhile, in Kota Baru, a top Umno leader has warned party members and Barisan Nasional supporters to stay away from Opposition-sponsored programmes featuring Dr Mahathir.

Party vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said the Opposition, particularly Pas, would use the programme to its advantage to further divide and confuse Umno members.

His warning comes on the heels of a

similar caution by Kelantan Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Annuar Musa on Thursday concerning Mubarak's plan to hold the dialogue with Dr Mahathir.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Ali said it was not wise for party members to attend the programme as it was a "waste of time" and could "complicate things".

"We do not want to complicate the situation as the Opposition, such as Pas, will take advantage of it," Ali said after meeting Kota Baru Umno grassroots leaders here.

"We leave it to the State liaison committee. If the programme is being held by the Opposition then it is not proper for Umno members and BN supporters to attend."