

No reason to stop Dr M, says Rais

KUALA LUMPUR: No obstacle was placed in the path of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad seeking to be a delegate" to the Umno general assembly.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said there was no reason for the Umno leadership to prevent Dr Mahathir from doing what he wanted.

"If he is being prevented from seeking the representa-

tive's position; then that is not fair. It is against party regulations.

"As far as I know, no such thing is happening," he told reporters after opening the Human Rights Day conference here, yesterday. "

Rais, also Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister, said proof of political freedom was the fact that former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was allowed to hold

lectures and give speeches.

At the Padang Rengas Umno division meeting yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said Dr Mahathir would not have been a great leader and respected worldwide if he had been outside Umno.

He said the party was one of the elements which enabled Dr Mahathir to have an illustrious 22-year leadership.