

Don't bother to contest, Dr M told

CHANGLUN: "We respect you as a leader but we disagree with your decision to be a delegate at the party's general assembly."

That was the sentiment of 32 Umno branches in the Kubang Pasu division over Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's intention to represent the division at the general assembly in November.

Mohd Yusof Jamaludin, a spokesman for the 32 branches, said Dr Mahathir should withdraw from contesting a delegate's post to protect his dignity as former prime minister,

Umno president and chairman of the division.

"Even if he contests, we cannot promise he would be chosen," he said.

The contest to select seven delegates will be held on Sept 9.

He suggested Dr Mahathir find another channel to raise his concerns about the party and Government.

"We regret Tun Dr Mahathir's decision to contest since it would mean bringing himself down to a delegate's level," Yusof, who is also Kampung Belukar/Bendang Ceruk Umno branch

chairman.

The 32 branches are considered the most influential among the 146 in the KubangPasu Umno division.

Its members included division chairman Datuk Johari Baharum, his deputy Ahmad Zaini Japar, vice-chairman Aman Khan Md Hussein and secretary Samsuddin Ahmad.

Yusof also said the group fully supported Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and recognised Dr Mahathir's contributions to the division.