

Dr M to contest post of divisional delegate

ALOR STAR: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he will contest the post of divisional delegate to the Umno general assembly in November.

He said at least two branches in the Kubang Pasu Umno division had nominated him to stand as a delegate.

Each division is represented by seven elected delegates chosen from ordinary Umno members.

Six more delegates to the assembly comprise the division chief, deputy chief and vice-chairman as well as the Wanita, Youth and Puteri chiefs.

"Let me reassure you that I will not withdraw from the contest to be a delegate," he said when addressing about 1,000 members of the Kedah Malay Assembly Hall at a hotel here yesterday.

At a press conference later, Dr Mahathir said he looked forward to representing the division at the assembly and would raise several key issues during the party assembly.

"I will not reveal now what I'm going to talk about at the general assembly. You will have to wait until that moment to find out," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said he had heard that there were some parties who would "be approaching him soon" to urge him to withdraw as a delegate.

"If I withdraw from the contest then there will be some people who will tag me as a *pengecut* (coward)," he said.



Dr Mahathir: 'Let me reassure you that I will not withdraw from the contest to be a delegate'

"So, for that reason alone, I have to attend the assembly if I win the contest to be a delegate," he said.

Dr Mahathir reminded Umno members that the party's struggles were riot about an individual, but about Umno.

Dr Mahathir said he was sad

that he had been accused of trying to split the party.

"I love Umno more than anybody else; and when the new Umno was formed in 1988, I was member No. 1 followed by my wife (Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali) who was member No. 2," he added.