

'Ex-PM a delegate at assembly 'against Malay culture'

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad must think carefully before offering himself as a delegate at the next Umno general assembly.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein

said never in history had a former prime minister been among the delegates.

"This goes against the values and principles of how we were brought up and the Malay culture itself," he said after launching the National Language and

Literature Month 2006 yesterday.

The former prime minister and ex-Umno president said recently that he wanted to be a delegate at the general assembly and hoped to be given an opportunity to speak.

He said the Umno general assembly would be attended by members, observers from other races and foreigners.

"I am worried and sad that if Tun Dr Mahathir is there, it will affect the position of the Malays and even his position as we are

being observed by the world, other races and Malays who are not Umno members."

In Kuala Nerang, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mahdzir Khalid said if Dr Mahathir wanted to speak at the assembly, he would have to

contest *for* a division delegates' post.

"It is not appropriate for a former premier with international recognition to contest against ordinary members for such a post," he told newsmen yesterday.