

32 Umno branches don't want Dr M to contest

KUALA LUMPUR: Thirty-two Umno branches in the Kubang Pasu Umno division unanimously decided at a meeting on Sunday former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should not contest for a delegate's seat at the divisional level.

The 32 branches in the Changlun zone, one of the 11 zones in the Kubang Pasu division, felt that the former Umno president should not contest one of the seven delegates seats in the Kubang Pasu division as "he should not go so low as to contest a divisional delegates seat".

Zone chief Zainol Abidin Mohamed claimed that the branches were disappointed with Mahathir's decision to contest.

"He should be given a special place at the general assembly ... if he wants to air his views then he should ask the prime minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to give him a chance to speak at the assembly.

Mahathir recently announced that he planned to become a Kubang Pasu delegate to the party's general assembly in November to raise a number of issues at the assembly.

However, he was reported on Sunday as saying that even if he was elected as a delegate, he may not get a chance to speak (at the general assembly) "as the (Kedah) Menteri Besar (Datuk Seri Mahdzi'r Khalid) may not choose me".