

Umno in the dark over Dr M's cancelled meeting in London

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno did not stop Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad from meeting Malaysian students in London recently.

Overseas Umno Club chairman Datuk Shafie Apdal said the party had not prohibited such a meeting between the former prime minister and the students.

"We don't know with whom he dealt with on the issue of the meeting.

"But as far we are concerned, there was no arrangement made for a meeting by the secretariat here," said Shafie, who is also the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister.

He was commenting on an allegation that Umno had, at the last minute, cancelled the meeting.

Shafie said the secretariat would usually be informed of any meeting scheduled with the students.

He was not sure if the meeting had been arranged only after Dr Mahathir arrived in London.

"Our leaders are welcome to meet our students abroad as long as the timing is right.

"For example, it should be when they are not busy with



Dr Mahathir being welcomed on his return home yesterday.

their exams," he said after a briefing on "Issues Related to Human Capital and Excellent Malays" to Umno members here yesterday.

Also present were Umno information chief Tan Sri Mu-

hammad Muhammad Taib and Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Rais Yatim.

Meanwhile, Muhammad said the party would not prohibit members from meeting

Dr Mahathir as it practised an open approach.

On Dr Mahathir's criticism of Abdullah and his administration, he said the party would continue supporting the Prime Minister.

"We respect Dr Mahathir as our former prime minister. But we will give our full support to Abdullah in ensuring continuity in development, safety and achievement of the Vision 2020 concept."