

Zahidi warned against inviting Dr M

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PUTRAJAYA: Padang Besar Umno division chief Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin risks disciplinary action if former president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad opens the division's annual general meeting next month.

Expressing disappointment with Zahidi's invitation, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad hoped that Zahidi would, withdraw it.

"I hope he doesn't go through

with it. If he does, he is breaching party discipline; and I cannot help him," he said.

"I am very disappointed because it is not a good example to other Umno members. I come from Pedis, but I must uphold party discipline," he told reporters here yesterday.

Radzi, who is Home Minister, reminded Umno divisions that only ministers, mentris besar, supreme council members and division chiefs could open division meetings during non-election years. And during party

election time, which was held every three years, only division chiefs were allowed to do so.

"These are the guidelines set during Dr Mahathir's time, and we still follow them," he added.

Zahidi had said this week that it was better for Umno to provide a platform for Dr Mahathir to speak so as to stop the opposition from capitalising on controversial issues.

Umno divisions are holding their annual meeting from Aug 3.