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# Dr M: Pas leaders should not hinder Umno talks

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**LANGKAWI:** Pas top leaders who are against their party spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's suggestion for a dialogue with Umno should not hinder the initiative, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The dialogue would give an opportunity to both parties to present their views and find a solution to unite Muslims divided by political ideology," he said.

He added that Pas leaders should have an open mind and be willing to share their views.

Nik Aziz was reported to have expressed his readiness to hold a dialogue with Umno but other leaders in his party, including Pas secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali and vice-

president Datuk Mahfuz Omar had rejected the idea.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said in Kuala Lumpur three days ago that Umno did not have any qualms about having the dialogue with Pas in the interest of the Muslims, the Malays and the country.

In **Malacca**, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said Umno leaders were ready to meet with anyone, including Pas, to hold talks on matters pertaining to Muslims in the country.

"Just do it. Over the years there have been numerous proposals for a meeting but nothing has materialised. We in Umno and Barisan Nasional are also open to talks on other religious matters concerning the Indians, Chinese, Iban, Kadazan and other religious groups."

In **Kuala Terengganu**, Nik Aziz said there were no problems since Islam supported negotiations.

He said it was preferable to have the *muza-*

*karah* before the next general election. **Bernama**

*"The dialogue would give an opportunity to both parties to present their views."*

**Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**