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Delegate takes swipe at Dr M

AN Umno delegate took the opportunity to slam former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Kelantan's loss in two general elections.

Referring to the 1990 and 2008 general elections which saw a vote swing for Umno, Md Alwi Che Ahmad said Mahathir was to be blamed.

"We lost Kelantan to PAS in 1990 because of Dr Mahathir's problem with Datuk Seri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah although it was three years prior to that.

"Umno was declared illegal but Kelantan Umno faced the worst repercussion," he said during the debate on the president's policy speech yesterday.

Md Alwi attributed the loss to disputes and disunity between the two prominent leaders.

Pointing that out, he said if the two

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prominent leaders are disputing and it was unresolved, the consequences to the party may be irreversible.

"Umno in Kelantan didn't win any seat in the 1990 election because two prominent leaders were fighting among themselves," he said.

In 1987, Tengku Razaleigh had challenged Mahathir for the party presidency but lost in the closely-fought contest.

Umno was later deregistered after which Tengku Razaleigh formed Semangat 46 while Mahathir formed Umno Baru.

Similarly, Mahathir had issues with former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2008 and had criticised his administration.

Md Alwi said that led to Barisan Nasional's loss of its two-thirds majority in the 2008 general election.