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Umno Youth wants leadership foundation's funding to cease

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth wants the 22 staff members of the Perdana Leadership Foundation removed from the Government's payroll.

Umno Youth deputy chief Khairul Azwan Harun said all forms of support, including money and assets, should cease immediately, claiming the foundation was being used as a tool to topple the Government.

"Umno Youth views seriously Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's actions in using the foundation as one of the platforms to topple the Government led by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak," he told a press conference yesterday.

"Barisan Nasional's double victory in the Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections shows that the *rakyat* supports the Prime Minister," he said.

Khairul said they would also bring up the matter at the Umno supreme council meeting

today, and send letters to the Prime Minister's Office and Umno secretary-general over the issue.

Asked if Umno Youth would stop making the demand if Dr Mahathir stepped down as the foundation chairman, Khairul said it was up to Najib.

Khairul noted that the foundation also received funds from the corporate sector.

He also called on Dr Mahathir to contest in the next general election, as his intentions could be construed as personal if he did not represent any political party.

In a separate statement, Youth exco member Dazma Shah Daud said the line-up supported Khairul's call.

"The demand is justified because Dr Mahathir is in cohorts with the Opposition bloc to topple the Prime Minister.

Although Umno Youth appreciates Dr Mahathir's past contributions, it could not accept his supposed attempt to bring Najib down, said Dazma.