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Bashah: Dr M's apology insincere

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ALOR STAR: Kedah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah yesterday expressed doubt about the sincerity of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's apology for amending the Constitution and curtailing the powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

In a blog post, Dr Mahathir apologised over the matter. He also took a swipe at the "Bangsa Johor" concept, claiming it could disunite the people.

When asked to comment on the issues, Bashah said perhaps the former prime minister apologised because he needed something.

"I agree with what Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar have said. It is the right of Johoreans. They know better.

"Due to current circumstances, he is apologising.

"If it was back then, he would not have apologised.

"He is doing it now probably because he needs something. His apology is not sincere."

Bashah, who is also menteri besar, was speaking after opening the Alor Star Umno division delegates' meeting here yesterday.

It was reported that Dr Mahathir apologised for amending the



Constitution and making the approval and signature of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong no longer necessary for the legalising of an act of Parliament.

He was quoted as saying "it would seem that because of the amendment, the new National Security Council law has become operational even though the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has not signed it".

Under the amendment to the Constitution, which was made in 1994 when Dr Mahathir was prime minister, any law passed by Parliament and the Senate would become law within 30 days irrespective of whether the king gives his assent.

Earlier in his speech, Bashah, who is also Bakar Bata assemblyman, called on other Barisan Nasional component parties to work together to win back the seats in the Alor Star

parliamentary constituency that were lost.

He said he was confident that BN parties could work together to win back the Alor Star parliamentary seat, held by PKR's Gooi Hsiao Lung.

"Alor Star, in the next general election, must be returned to BN. We are also targeting to win back the Alor Mengkudu and Kota Darulaman state seats.

"All branches must work together. For Kota Darulaman, MCA has to work hard.

"I hope all delegates will return to their respective areas to monitor preparations to face the challenges ahead."