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Rejoin politics or retire, Dr M told

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should either take a political stand or retire from his campaign against the government, said Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Azwan Harun.

Khairul questioned the motives behind the former prime minister campaigning for the opposition in the recent by-elections.

He said Dr Mahathir could either campaign based on his personal agenda or on behalf of a political party.

“If he is campaigning on a party

platform, then he should contest the next general election. So, which party is he representing?

“However, if he is campaigning for (his own) personal agenda, then he should take a rest and accept the outcomes of the by-elections.

“The people have spoken and he should respect their decision,” he said yesterday.

Khairul said Dr Mahathir and the opposition had turned the by-elections into a referendum on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak’s leadership.

He was speaking after a challenge made by Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak for Dr Mahathir to contest on the opposition’s ticket.

In the recent by-elections, Barisan Nasional garnered 10,572 votes in Sungai Besar, with a 6,065-vote majority, and garnered 12,332 votes in Kuala Kangsar, with a 6,698-vote majority.

Dr Mahathir had openly rooted for the opposition during the campaigning period, and had spoken at Parti Amanah Negara events.