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DR M SKIRTS AROUND RESIGNATION

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He makes only a one-line reply on ex-supreme council member's move

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THE brewing rift in Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia's (PPBM) leadership has kept its chairman, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, skirting around the issue.

Dr Mahathir spoke on many issues at an event in Kampung Pandan Dalam here on Wednesday night, but avoided touching on the resignation of his party's former supreme council member Kamarulzaman Habibul Rahman.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech, criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and accused him of being a thief, but only commented on Kamarulzaman's resignation when hounded by reporters.

"Maybe his cronies didn't pick him," Dr Mahathir said after the event, before rushing to his car.

On Wednesday, Kamarulzaman, who was the party's working committee secretary and Ne-

gri Sembilan state chairman, announced his resignation from PPBM, claiming the party's top leaders were surrounded by members who were interested only in attaining positions.

Kamarulzaman had said he was criticised by his party comrades for highlighting the faults in PPBM, and that his complaints to Dr Mahathir had fallen on deaf ears.

Kamarulzaman had said the former prime minister had been swayed by "bad advice" from the latter's inner circle.

He had also lashed out at PPBM leaders like party president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and his deputy Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, both of whom he claimed were unhappy with his views on the party and its direction.

He had said following his resignation, some 820 PPBM members would follow suit and quit the party soon.

However, PPBM vice-president Datuk Abdul Rashid Asari, during the same event, denied Kamarulzaman's allegations that the party practised cronyism. He said party members did not know each other until they decided to work together.

Rashid said Kamarulzaman's resignation would not affect the party as such occurrences were normal in any political party.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad