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HIDDEN AGENDA

'CRITICISM OF RULER MEANT TO SOW DISCORD'

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Critic of Johor sultan doing things for his benefit, says Umno man

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THE recent criticism levelled at the sultan of Johor is an attempt to sow confusion and chaos among the people, says Pahang Umno deputy chairman Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin.

Sharkar said by making the criticism, the critic showed that he was willing to sacrifice his principles to fulfil his political objectives.

"This is a very critical problem because the sultan is above politics," Sharkar said yesterday, adding that although politicians come and go, the monarchy would always remain.

He said the apolitical status of members of royalty were reflected in the Royal Commission of Inquiry, which is above political intervention.

Sharkar, who is also Umno Supreme Council member, said the critic was willing to do whatever it took to ensure the collapse of the government.

"His Highness is upset by the recent situation involving the statement and action of this person (who made the criticism). I hope the people understand that the things this person is doing is merely for his benefit."

Recently, Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar took to task the critic, known for his *melayu mudah lupa* (Malays easily forget) quote.

The person being referred to is believed to be former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a former Umno member, who is now working with the opposition.

Sharkar said the criticism was part of his attacks against the administration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, which began when Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir lost his political standing in Umno.

Mukhriz, who is Dr Mahathir's son, stepped down as

Kedah menteri besar in February last year following the state Umno's loss of confidence in his leadership.



Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin