

Call to rethink Dr M's visit

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KOTA BARU: Kelantan Umno has advised a group of former politicians to call off their plans to organise a talk featuring former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad later this month.

Kelantan Umno liaison chief Datuk Seri Annuar Musa said the event, planned much earlier, should be reconsidered in light of the friction between Dr Mahathir and Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's administration.

Annuar said his call did not mean Kelantan Umno was preventing Dr Mahathir from visiting the State, but only that the timing was inappropriate.

The group, called "Mubarak", an association of former Barisan Nasional elected representatives, planned to hold a talk featuring Dr Mahathir in Kelantan on July 28.

Annuar explained the talk was planned long before Dr Mahathir launched his most scathing attack on Abdullah on June 7, when the former premier claimed, among other things, that his successor had stabbed him in the back and reversed his policy decisions.

"When it was first proposed a while ago, I had agreed to (the talk), as Kelantan Umno leaders also wanted to meet Tun," said Annuar. "But given the recent controversy, maybe it would be best if Mubarak reconsidered their plans."

He said Kelantan Umno fears the talk could be "misunderstood" and other parties might take advantage of it to further their own political agendas.